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Adani to build mega battery storage facility in India

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Ranji: K'taka climbs to top despite settling for a draw

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

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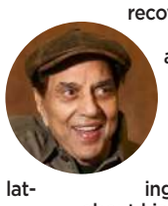
Best day to send message: SC bins ISIS man's bail plea

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The Supreme Court on Tuesday denied bail to Syed Mamoor Ali, accused of links with ISIS and allegedly attempting to create a "ring of terror" in India. Hearing the plea a day after the Red Fort blast, the bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta remarked it was the "best morning to send a message". Ali, arrested in May 2023 under UAPA and IPC provisions, had challenged a Madhya Pradesh High Court order denying bail. The bench also questioned his counsel on case recoveries. *—PTI*

Dharmendra stable: Family denies death rumours

MUMBAI, 11 NOV



Dharmendra is "stable and recovering", the veteran actor's family said on Tuesday, urging the media to stop circulating false news about his health. The 89-year-old star continues to remain under observation at a Mumbai hospital. Earlier in the day, there were several news reports about Dharmendra's death but daughter Esha Deol dismissed them in a post on Instagram. "The media seems to be in over-drive and spreading false news. My father is stable and recovering. We request everyone to give our family privacy. Thank you for the prayers for papa's speedy recovery," Esha wrote on Instagram. Dharmendra's wife, Hema Malini, also criticised "irresponsible" media coverage of the actor's health. *—PTI*

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NIA takes over Delhi terror blast probe

Officials say J&K doctor was driving car, suicide bomb suspected

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the probe into the Red Fort blast that killed 12 people on Monday evening.

The decision came after investigators identified a Pulwama-based doctor, already linked to a recently busted terror module, as the person driving the car that exploded near the Red Fort metro station.

Officials said the driver was Dr Umar Nabi, believed to be among the 12 dead. He had been on the run after the Faridabad terror module was exposed earlier the same day. Jammu and Kashmir Police collected a DNA sample from his mother on Tuesday to confirm his identity. While early reports suggested three people were in the car, investigators now believe Umar was the lone occupant.

UAPA FIR registered

Delhi Police have registered a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and various sections of the Explosives Act relating to terror conspiracy. Investigators are probing whether the blast was a suicide bombing or the result of accidental detonation.

CONNECTION TO FARIDABAD RAID

The blast occurred hours after eight people, including three doctors, were arrested and 2,900 kg of explosives seized on Monday during the unravelling of what officials described as a "white-collar" terror module linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, operating across Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Among those arrested were Dr Muzammil Ganaie and Dr Shaheen Sayeed, both associated with Faridabad's Al Falah University, from where 360 kg of ammonium nitrate was recovered. Investigators described Shaheen as the head of the Jamaat-ul-Mominat, the women's recruitment wing of JeM in India. Officials believe Umar, also connected with Al Falah, may have carried out the explosion fearing imminent arrest after his colleagues were detained. Preliminary findings indicate that ammonium nitrate, fuel oil and detonators were used in the powerful blast. A man identified as Tariq, arrested in Pulwama, is alleged to have provided the Hyundai i20 to Umar.

Officials said they have not ruled out the possibility that Umar, allegedly transporting explosives including ammonium nitrate, may have panicked and triggered the blast inadvertently.

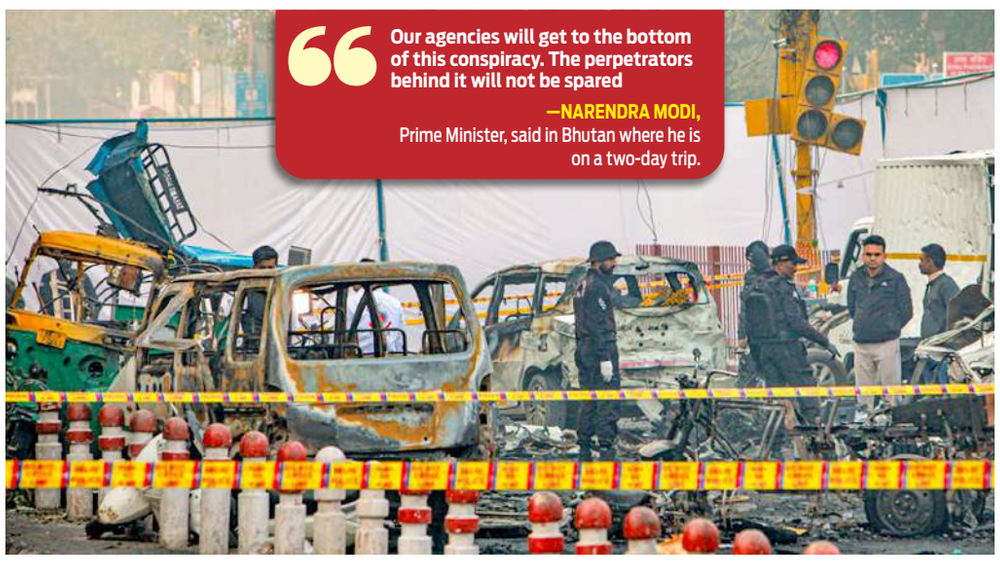
PROBE AGENCIES ON HUNT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the situation on Tuesday and directed security agencies to "hunt down each and every culprit" behind the attack.

Teams from Delhi Police, NIA and central intelligence agencies have since fanned out across Delhi and Kashmir. Four people have been detained in Kashmir, with two moved for joint interrogation regarding both the Red Fort blast and the interstate terror network.

Raids are continuing at multiple locations in Delhi, and authorities are scanning CCTV footage from parking lots and surrounding areas.

> **Our agencies will get to the bottom of this conspiracy. The perpetrators behind it will not be spared**
>
> **—NARENDRA MODI,** Prime Minister, said in Bhutan where he is on a two-day trip.



Charred vehicles inside a cordoned-off area after Monday's blast near Red Fort Metro Station. (Inset: Dr Umar Nabi) CCTV clip shows two people standing near the car at a petrol pump, where it was taken for a mandatory pollution check, possibly to avoid suspicion at border points ***PHOTO: PTI***

3 VICTIMS IDENTIFIED

Three victims — Ashok Kumar, 34, of Amroha, Uttar Pradesh; Amar Kataria, 35, of Delhi and Dinesh Mishra of Shravasti district, Uttar Pradesh — have been identified.

The remaining bodies, aged between 28 and 58, are yet to be named.

One mutilated body was recovered from the wreckage of the car. Among the injured, 12 are Delhi residents, while others hail from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. *—PTI*

>>>More on Pgs 2, 4, 5 & 6

SUSPECTS' VARSITY UNDER LENS FOR TERROR

A day after the Red Fort blast, Al-Falah Medical University in Haryana's Faridabad has come under the scanner following the arrest of doctors linked to the institution in a suspected terror module. Dr Umar un Nabi, believed to be driving the explosive-laden Hyundai i20, worked at the university's School of Medical Sciences. Founded in 2014 and spread over 70 acres, the UGC-recognised university operates a 650-bed hospital. Investigators are probing whether its laboratories were used to manufacture explosives tied to the Delhi blast and the 2,900-kg seizure in Faridabad. The probe began after threatening JeM posters surfaced in Srinagar on 19 October. Shakeel's arrest led police to two Faridabad locations, where large quantities of explosives and ammunition were recovered.

RED FORT AND CHANDI CHOWK SHUT

Delhi remained on high alert on Tuesday, with the Red Fort and Lal Quila Metro Station closed to the public following the blast. The ASI said the monument will stay shut until 13 November as the crime-scene investigation continues. Chandni Chowk traders announced a full market shutdown, citing fear among shopkeepers. Overnight searches were carried out in Daryaganj and Paharganj hotels and guest houses, while the Red Fort Metro Station and surrounding roads faced strict restrictions as raids continued.

MUSLIMS CALL FOR UNBIASED PROBE

Prominent Muslim organisations expressed deep concern over the blast, highlighting security lapses and urging a unbiased investigation. The All-India Muslim Personal Law Board called the incident either an unfortunate accident or, if proven a terror attack, a "deeply alarming" failure of security in a highly sensitive zone. Calling reports of a possible terror angle "heinous if confirmed", Jamaat-e-Islami Hind president Syed Sadatullah Husaini criticised misinformation and communal narratives surrounding the incident, stressing unity and a time-bound investigation whose findings should be made public.

Bengaluru police intensify security across the City and issued a HIGH ALERT

Nithari case: SC acquits Koli accused of killing 8

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The Supreme Court on Tuesday acquitted Surendra Koli in one of the Nithari murder cases, allowing his curative petition and effectively paving the way for his release. Koli, the domestic help at businessman Moninder Singh Pandher's Nithari residence in Noida in 2006, had been previously acquitted in 12 other cases linked to the Nithari killings. With this 13th acquittal, he is now set to walk free.

The Nithari case first came to light on 29 December 2006.

The number of victims is generally reported as 19 children and young women. The skeletal remains of at least 8 individuals were recovered from a drain behind the house of one of the accused, Moninder Singh Pandher.

Koli was the domestic help at Pandher's house at the time.

A bench of Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justices Surya Kant and Vikram Nath heard Koli's curative plea in open court and quashed his conviction, sentence and fine.

Koli had been convicted for the rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl in Nithari, a verdict upheld by the Supreme Court in 2011 before Tuesday's reversal.

Supreme Court said it was a matter of "deep regret" that the identity of the actual perpetrator despite prolonged investigation. Referring to the case, the bench said the scene was not secured before excavation began, the alleged disclosure was not contemporaneously recorded *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

Exit polls predict 'NDA sarkar'; 0-5 seats for PK

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Exit polls on Tuesday indicated a clear edge for the NDA in the Bihar Assembly elections, suggesting the alliance is on course to return to power, while Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj appears headed for a disappointing debut. The two-phase polling was held on 6 and 11 November, with results scheduled for 14 November.

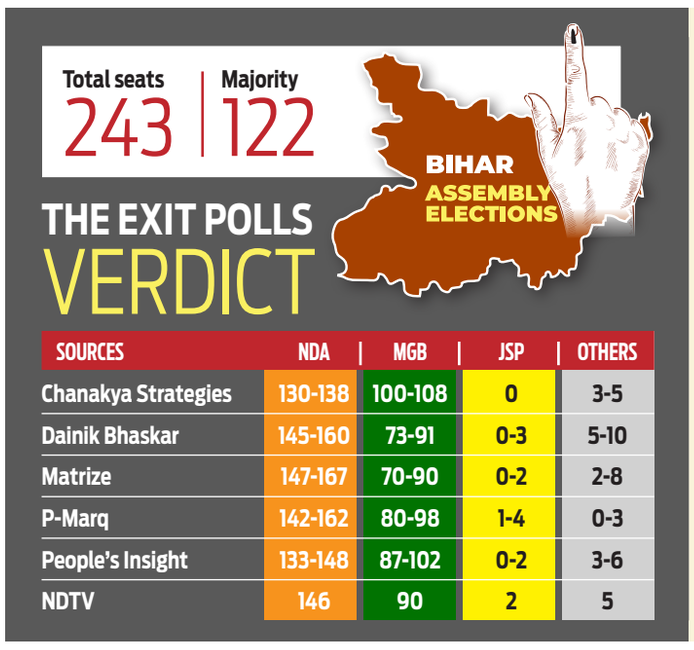
The Matrize Exit Poll projected 147–167 seats for the NDA, 70–90 for the Mahagathbandhan, and 0–2 for Jan Suraaj.

JVC projected 135–150 seats for the NDA and 88–103 for the Mahagathbandhan, and Polstrat offered identical ranges of 133–148 and 87–102 respectively.

Across agencies, most exit polls predicted a comfortable majority for the NDA and a significantly weaker performance for the Mahagathbandhan. Jan Suraaj, contesting its first election, is projected to win little to no seats in most surveys. A few pollsters also suggested that two major agencies, Axis My India and Today's Chanakya, will publish their assessments on Wednesday.

The NDA, comprising the BJP, JD(U) and LJP (Ram Vilas), is aiming to retain power, while the opposition INDIA bloc, led in Bihar by the RJD, with the Congress and Left parties, is hoping to form the next government, with Tejashwi Yadav as its chief ministerial face. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3



SOURCES	NDA	MGB	JSP	OTHERS
Chanakya Strategies	130-138	100-108	0	3-5
Dainik Bhaskar	145-160	73-91	0-3	5-10
Matrize	147-167	70-90	0-2	2-8
P-Marq	142-162	80-98	1-4	0-3
People's Insight	133-148	87-102	0-2	3-6
NDTV	146	90	2	5

BIHAR SEES HIGHEST TURNOUT OF 66.91% AS WOMEN OUTDO MEN

PATNA, 11 NOV

Bihar has registered an overall voter turnout of 66.91 per cent, its highest since the first state polls in 1951, the Election Commission said on Tuesday, adding that the state also recorded the highest female voter turnout in its history. This is despite scattered violence and the recovery of cash. Clashes were reported between Jan Suraaj supporters and BJP workers in Barbigha under the Warisaliganj constituency, where a car was vandalised. Polling was also delayed at six booths across five districts due to EVM glitches.

The turnout across 122 constituencies, covering 3.70 crore voters, surpassed the 65.09 per cent recorded in the first phase on 6 November. Women voters again turned out in larger numbers at 74.03 per cent against a male voter turnout of 64.1 per cent.

Polling also took place for eight bypoll seats across seven states. In Telangana's Jubilee Hills by-election, turnout stood at 47.16 per cent at 5 pm, with those in queues at closing time allowed to vote. *—PTI*

David Szalay wins Booker for 'Flesh'

LONDON, 11 NOV

Hungarian-British author David Szalay has won the 2025 Booker Prize for his novel 'Flesh', edging out Indian writer Kiran Desai's 'The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny' at a ceremony in London on Monday night. Szalay, 51, received £50,000 and a trophy presented by last year's winner, Samantha Harvey. His novel, centred on an emotionally detached man whose life unravels through a series of unsettling events, was praised by judges as "hypnotically tense" and "astonishingly moving", crafted with "the sparest of prose". *—PTI*

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IN BENGALURU & MYSURU

K'taka to get 5 aerospace, defence parks

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced the State's plan to develop five world-class aerospace and defence parks in strategic locations, including Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru, and Chamarajanagar. The parks will feature "plug-and-play" facilities designed to significantly reduce setup time for industries.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Collins India Operations Centre at the KIADB Aerospace Park in Devanahalli, Siddaramaiah described the 26-acre facility as a pivotal milestone in establishing Karnataka as a global hub for advanced aerospace manufacturing. "The decision by Collins Aerospace to establish this comprehensive centre in Bengaluru is a powerful endorsement of Karnataka's robust industrial ecosystem," he stated.

Collins Aerospace is investing USD 25 million, which is expected to create over 2,000 skilled jobs in research, development, and advanced manufacturing. Siddaramaiah noted that Karnataka contributes approximately 65 per cent of India's aerospace and defence sector and highlighted that over 2,000 small and medium enterprises operate within these industries in the state.

He also encouraged global aerospace leaders to invest in Karnataka, saying, "Our policies, our people and our proven track record make us the ideal partner for your success."

Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil noted that this facility is Collins Aerospace's first in India under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, reinforcing the state's commitment to facilitating high-tech sectors. *—PTI*

SC seeks EC response on pleas against SIR in TN, WB

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought separate responses from the Election Commission (EC) on petitions filed by the DMK, CPI(M), West Bengal Congress and Trinamool Congress leaders challenging the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi granted the EC two weeks to file its replies and directed the Madras and Calcutta High Courts to keep pending SIR-related proceedings in abeyance.

The court also allowed the AIADMK's intervention plea supporting the SIR in Tamil Nadu and listed the matter for further hearing on 26–27 November, observing that if irregularities were found, it could annul the entire exercise. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the DMK, argued the revision was being conducted hastily and during the peak northeast monsoon, when heavy rain and flood-relief duties would hinder both citizens and officials. He also flagged poor connectivity in rural Tamil Nadu. *—PTI*

Boy drowns, two missing in K'taka canal accident

VIJAYAPURA, 11 NOV

A 16-year-old boy has drowned, and two others are missing after they slipped into a canal on Tuesday, police reported. The victims, Basamma Konnur, 21, Santosh Konnur, 16, and Ravi Konnur, 15, all relatives from Muddebihal town, fell into the waterway under the Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Limited project near Shirol village. Emergency services have recovered the body of Santosh Konnur, while search operations continue for the other two individuals, according to local authorities. *—PTI*

International Autoshow from 14 Nov in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Bengaluru will host the fourth International Autoshow-2025 from 14 to 16 November at Tripura Vasini, Palace Grounds. Organised by Triune Exhibitors, the event will unite the automotive ecosystem, featuring vehicle and component manufacturers, garage equipment suppliers, EV innovators, and aftermarket players. The theme, 'Driving Innovation-Powering the Future', underscores India's transition towards electrification, smart mobility, and sustainability. Attendees can expect to see cutting-edge automotive technologies and innovations, as well as the chance to network with industry leaders. Insights into EV growth, aftermarket trends, and next-generation garage infrastructure will also be provided. Automotives, distributors, and EV innovators are encouraged to participate.*—PTI*

Two killed in bike lorry collision in Kalaburagi

KALABURAGI, 11 NOV

In a tragic incident on Tuesday morning, two men lost their lives in a collision between their motorbike and a tipper lorry. The victims have been identified as Sharanabasappa, 32, a government school teacher, and Baganna, 30, both residents of Kollur village in Kalaburagi district. According to police, they were travelling from Jevargi to Kalaburagi when the accident occurred near Farhatabad. A police official stated, "The two-wheeler collided with the tipper lorry, killing both men on the spot." The lorry driver was unharmed. Authorities have registered a case and the investigation is on. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

CM Siddaramaiah opens Kalaloka store at KIA

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated Kalaloka, a new store by the Department of Industries at Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport in the City of the State, on Tuesday. The store aims to showcase and sell State's Geographical Indication (GI) certified products to both domestic and international travellers. Deputy CM DK Shivakumar and Minister for Industries MB Patil were also present. Patil mentioned that the store features traditional products including Mysore sandal soap, coffee, Mysore silk, and Bidriware, with a total of 45 GI-certified items on offer. Airport authorities have allocated 132sqm for the Kalaloka store, with plans for a similar outlet in the international departure area covering 140sqm, both designed to reflect the state's rich culture and heritage. *—PTI*

B'luru steps up vigil after Delhi car blast

Checkpoints and patrols strengthened across the City

Police personnel conduct heightened security checks at Majestic in Bengaluru on Tuesday, inspecting an unidentified suitcase at the KSRTC bus stand and scanning key locations including the City Railway Station and Vidhana Soudha, a day after a car blast rocked Delhi ***PHOTOS: MOHAMMED ASAD***

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Following a deadly car explosion near Red Fort in Delhi on Monday evening, the Bengaluru City Police have intensified security measures across the city and issued a high alert to all deputy commissioners of police (DCPs).

The Commissioner of Police (CP) has directed every division to conduct round-the-clock checks and maintain heightened vigilance in public and high-traffic areas, especially near vital installations and commercial hubs.

According to the advisory, nakabandis (checkpoints) have been ordered within all police station limits, with officers instructed to inspect suspicious vehicles, verify identities, and question individuals if necessary, PTI reported.

Surprise checks will also be conducted at hotels, paying guest accommodations, and lodges to identify any unregistered or suspicious occupants.

Police personnel have been informed to remain alert near VIP residences, foreign consulates, government offices, and crowded areas, while monitoring for unattended vehicles or objects.

Security measures has been reinforced at airports, metro and railway stations, malls, markets, and educational institutions, where additional patrols and anti-sabotage teams have been deployed to maintain constant surveillance.

Officials said the increased vigil is a precautionary measure aimed at preventing any spillover incidents.

The city police have also urged the people of Bengaluru city to remain cautious and report suspicious activity through emergency helplines.

What happened in Delhi?

The explosion near Red Fort in Delhi occurred around 6.52pm on Monday. The shocking incident resulted in the killing of at least eight people and injuring about 20 individuals.

The powerful blast engulfed multiple vehicles in flames, sparking panic among nearby crowds gathered in the evening. Investigators are probing the cause and possible terror links. *—Agencies*

BENGALURU AIRPORT ASKS PASSENGERS TO ARRIVE EARLY

Bengaluru, 11 Nov

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport on Tuesday advised passengers to arrive well in advance to complete security checks following a car blast near Red Fort in Delhi. "Due to enhanced security measures at airports across the country, we request all passengers to plan their travel and arrive at BLR airport well in advance," the airport said in an advisory shared on its 'X' account. Passengers are encouraged to allow sufficient time for travel formalities, it added. "This will ensure a smooth journey, providing sufficient time to complete security checks without delays. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work together to keep your travel safe and seamless," the advisory added. *—PTI*

Don't politicise Delhi blast, says DKS

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday urged the Centre to bring to justice those behind the Red Fort blast that killed 12 people, calling for vigilance and unity against terror.

"Whether the blast is in Delhi or elsewhere, we must be careful," he said, adding that Karnataka's Home Minister is reviewing security and the Chief Minister has issued directions. Shivakumar condemned the attack and said political blame must wait until the culprits are caught.

However, Minister Priyank Kharge blamed Union Minister Amit Shah for "intelligence failure," calling him "the most incompetent Home Minister in independent India." He demanded Shah's resignation, questioning PM Narendra Modi's silence and accountability over recurring terror incidents. *—PTI*

4 booked for partying inside Bengaluru jail

The leaked video, which was reportedly captured on a phone, shows prison inmates dancing at Bengaluru Central Jail ***PHOTO: SALAR***

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Four undertrial prisoners at Bengaluru Central Jail have been booked after a viral video surfaced, showing them dancing and allegedly using prohibited items within the prison. The police acted on a complaint filed by Imamsaab Myageri, the prison superintendent at Parappana Agrahara.

Myageri's complaint identified the inmates as Karthik alias Jitre Patrick, Dhananjay alias Renukaprasad, Manjunath V alias Koli Manja, and Charan Rao B.

It highlighted that on 9 November 2025, various television channels broadcast footage of the undertrials dancing inside Barrack-8, Room-7.

"The inmates were seen using prohibited items inside the prison," Myageri stated, adding sources suggested they were consuming alcohol and non-vegetarian food. The video, reportedly captured on a mobile phone—which is strictly forbidden in prisons—was leaked and circulated outside, leading to significant media coverage.

Prison authorities have called for a comprehensive investigation to determine how the mobile phone was smuggled in, who recorded the video, and how it was transmitted to the outside world.

The complaint requests appropriate legal action against both the inmates involved and those responsible for capturing and leaking the footage.

In response to the incident, the State government has suspended Myageri and the assistant superintendent, while the Chief Superintendent of Bengaluru Central Jail, K Suresha, has been transferred. The leaked footage allegedly depicted not only a terror suspect but also a serial rapist and a gold smuggler in possession of mobile phones, leading the BJP to stage protests demanding the resignation of CM Siddaramaiah. *—PTI*

Ashoka ties Delhi blast to prison perks

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Tuesday demanded that the case involving a terror suspect allegedly using a mobile phone inside Bengaluru's high-security Parappana Agrahara Central Jail be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). He also raised concerns about possible links between the suspect and those behind Monday's blast near Delhi's Red Fort, which killed 12 people.

Ashoka said investigators must determine whom the terror suspect was in contact with and how the device reached him. His remarks follow the emergence of videos last week purportedly showing inmates, including serial rapist Umesh Reddy and a terror suspect identified as Juhad Hameed Shakeel Manna, using smartphones and allegedly receiving preferential treatment inside the prison.

"There is suspicion that the incident in Delhi was a terrorist act. At the same time, a terror suspect used a mobile phone in Parappana Agrahara jail," Ashoka said. "It must be probed whether he had any links with the perpetrators of the Delhi blast. Was he directly or indirectly involved? This angle is very important."

Calling it a matter of national security, he demanded answers on who supplied the phone and who enabled the breach, describing the act as "treason".

Ashoka further alleged that "highly educated individuals" were increasingly involved in terror activities, pointing to the Delhi blast and warning that "high-tech terrorists" required heightened vigilance. He also accused the Congress government of "appeasement", claiming it had contributed to the current situation. *—PTI*

Karnataka extends online window for caste census

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

The Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes has extended the online entry window for the state's Social and Educational Survey, commonly called the caste census, till 30 November.

The door-to-door enumeration ended on 31 October with 89.48 per cent coverage, leaving about 4.22 lakh households unaccounted for. "To provide every household an opportunity to participate, the self-enumeration period through the online link https://kscbcselfdeclaration.karnataka.gov.in has been extended till 30 November," the commission said. The decision follows requests from citizens unable to participate during the main survey. *—PTI*

CM renews push for Mekedatu reservoir

MYSURU, 11 NOV

Mekedatu is a multi-purpose project, which involves building a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district, Karnataka ***PHOTO: X***

State Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday renewed his push for the Mekedatu balancing reservoir in Kanakapura taluk, asserting that the project will not harm Tamil Nadu's interests or affect the water-sharing agreement between the two states.

Speaking at a conference in Mysuru, he said, "TN should be given 177.25 TMC water, but we have released 150 TMC more, almost double the quota. The Mekedatu project will not affect their share."

The CM noted that Karnataka and Tamil Nadu received good rainfall this year and that all reservoirs in the state are full. However, he said around 90 per cent crop loss was reported in parts of North Karnataka, affecting about 11 lakh hectares. Compensation of Rs 31,000 per hectare is being given for perennial crops and Rs 25,500 for irrigated areas, he said, adding that the government is committed to supporting affected farmers.

On cabinet expansion, CM said he had sought time from Rahul Gandhi during his Delhi visit for a book launch on 15 November. "If he gives time, I will discuss cabinet expansion; otherwise, I will return the same night," he added. On the Delhi car explosion, he said the incident could impact the Bihar polls and expressed sorrow over the loss of lives. Referring to the recent man-animal conflicts in Mysuru, he said barricades would be installed in areas with frequent elephant incursions. *—PTI*

'LIFE HAS RETURNED'

Kolar's restored lake fuels farm revival

KOLAR, 11 NOV

The Yagavoddu tank, today revived at a cost of Rs 80 lakh ***PHOTO: SALAR***

Once a lifeline for Ammacheruvapalli village in Srinivaspur taluk of Kolar, the Yagavoddu tank had long fallen silent as years of silt accumulation and erratic rainfall left it dry and desolate. Today, it stands revived, thanks to a restoration initiative led by Aahwahan Foundation, Bengaluru, in partnership with Netcracker Technology, at a cost of Rs 80 lakh.

"The tank, spread across nearly 20 acres, has regained its vitality and renewed the community's faith," said Viswanatha Sastry, a priest from neighbouring Royalpad village. The revival included desilting, bund strengthening, and clearing inflow channels blocked by weeds and slush. Saplings were planted along the periphery to restore its natural charm, said Aahwahan Foundation CEO Braja Kishore Pradhan. Ramesh Gowda, a local farmer, recalled, "Seeing it full again feels like life has returned." The rejuvenation has significantly improved the region's groundwater levels and revived farming activities across seven neighbouring villages.

"The revival of Yagavoddu Kere has recharged groundwater, revived farms, and reversed migration. It's proof that sustainable efforts can transform lives," said Byre Gowda, Government Employees Association president.

Beyond agriculture, the lake will now support fishing, livestock, and small-scale economic activities, creating a ripple effect across the local economy. A similar project in Mulbagal turned a garbage-filled tank into a community space, showing how restoration can foster ecological balance. *—Salar News*

ISRO tests Gaganyaan's main parachute system

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed a key qualification test of the main parachutes for the Gaganyaan Crew Module, advancing India's first human spaceflight mission.

Conducted on 3 November at the Babina Field Firing Range in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, the test was part of the Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Tests (IMAT).

The Gaganyaan mission aims to send a three-member Indian crew into space for three days and return them safely. ISRO is developing a human-rated launch vehicle, orbital module, and crew-escape system, with unmanned flights planned before the crewed mission.

The Crew Module's parachute system has 10 parachutes of four types.

The sequence begins with apex cover separation, followed by drogue parachutes for stabilisation and three main parachutes for a safe touchdown.

Only two are needed for landing. In this test, a module-equivalent mass was dropped from an IAF IL-76 aircraft at 2.5 km altitude, simulating delayed inflation of one main parachute.

The deployment was smooth, confirming system strength and reliability, ISRO official said. *—PTI*

QUOTE of THE DAY

Such things happen during elections. There's no need for the people of Bihar to be terrified by this.

—PRASHANT KISHOR,
JSP founder on Delhi blast

LEADERS CAST THEIR VOTES: Bihar Congress Chief Rajesh Ram and others in Aurangabad; Jan Suraaj founder Prashant Kishor in Rohtas; BJP candidate for Alinagar Maithili Thakur; Bihar BJP President Dilip Jaiswal in Kishanganj; Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi in Gayaji district on Tuesday **PHOTOS: PTI**

RJD calls voting unfair, BJP lodges case

RJD claims BJP, LJP workers were preventing people from voting for JD(U) & other parties

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The BJP on Tuesday lodged a formal complaint against the RJD, accusing it of violating the election Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and other legal provisions through a social media post amidst the second phase of Bihar polls.

In its written complaint to the Chief Electoral Officer, the BJP alleged that the RJD's post amounted to "deliberate attempts to manipulate voter perception on the day of polling," saying such actions "strike at the root of democracy."

Earlier in the day, the RJD had posted on its Facebook page that workers of the BJP and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) were not facilitating votes for the Janata Dal (United) and vice versa, adding that none of the leaders of the three parties had denied the claim.

The BJP, in its complaint, said the post "falsely alleges that workers of the BJP and LJP are preventing electors from voting in favour of JD(U), and that JD(U) workers are not allowing votes to be cast for the BJP."

Terming it to be "utterly baseless and fabricated", the BJP alleged that the post aimed at creating distrust and division among NDA alliance partners, influencing voters on polling day, disturbing communal harmony and electoral peace, and misleading the electorate through false propaganda.

The saffron party also claimed that the post was in breach of Section 123(4) and Section 171G of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. While Section 123(4) treats publication of false statements regarding a candidate or party as a corrupt practice, Section 171G penalises publishing false statements in connection with elections.

The BJP requested the Election Commission to take appropriate action, including seeking removal of the post by Meta, issuance of a showcause notice and directing factual inquiry, among other things. *—PTI*

- The RJD had posted on its Facebook page that workers of the BJP and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) were not facilitating votes for the Janata Dal (United) and vice versa. The BJP alleged that the post amounted to "deliberate attempts to manipulate voter perception

Women wait in a queue to cast their votes in Katihar, Bihar on Tuesday. More women showed up than men to booths, likely because of the perks promised by both alliances in their respective manifestos **PHOTO: PTI**

POLITICAL CLASHES ROCK VARIOUS REGIONS IN BIHAR

NAWADA/SITAMARHI/ ARARIA, 11 NOV

A minor clash took place between supporters of different political parties near a polling booth in Warisaliganj area in Bihar's Nawada district during the final phase of voting on Tuesday.

"The situation in the area is completely under control and voting is underway smoothly," Nawada Superintendent of Police Abhinav Dhiman said. He said that rumours that a government vehicle engaged in poll duty has been damaged are completely baseless and claimed that the damaged vehicle is private.

A video viral video purportedly shows a person saying that he was beaten by his opponents for not casting a vote in favour of the BJP.

In another incident, a case of violation of the model code of conduct was registered against JD(U) polling agent Gautam Kumar for allegedly distributing pamphlets of his party candidate inside polling booth number 270 in Runnisaidpur area in Sitamarhi district during voting.

Meanwhile, a section of the media reported that clashes took place between supporters of political parties in Aurangabad and Araria, but the Election Commission dismissed the reports and termed those as "misleading". *—PTI*

BJP confident about NDA's 'massive victory'

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The BJP on Tuesday exuded confidence about the NDA winning the Bihar Assembly polls with a "massive majority", while asserting that there was a "one-sided wave" among the electorate in favour of the state's incumbent alliance.

Exit polls predicted a big victory for the NDA, with the Mahagathbandhan a distant second. They also predicted a disappointing show by Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj.

"No matter what any poll says... The BJP-NDA is going to win the election with at least 160 seats," BJP national spokesperson Syed Shahnawaz Hussain said.

Women, who came out in large numbers, voted for the NDA, he claimed.

He added that infighting had damaged the INDIA bloc while the Jan Suraaj would be lucky to "open its account".

Meanwhile, Congress MP Tariq Anwar said that "cannot be considered accurate.... They are only a speculation." *—Agencies*

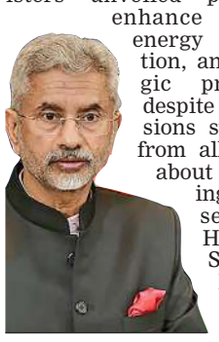
Jaishankar to attend G7 meeting in Canada on Wednesday

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will travel to Canada on Wednesday to participate in the G7 foreign ministers' meeting, a move aimed at normalising bilateral relations. Jaishankar will attend the outreach session in Ontario at the invitation of Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand, as confirmed by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The MEA stated, "The external affairs minister's participation in the G7 foreign ministers' meeting reflects India's continued commitment to working with international partners in addressing global challenges and bolstering the voice of the Global South in international fora."

On the sidelines of the G7 meeting, Jaishankar is expected to hold bilateral discussions, including with Anand. The G7 gathering will address global economic and security issues. Jaishankar's visit follows Anand's recent trip to India, during which both ministers unveiled plans to enhance trade, energy cooperation, and strategic priorities, despite past tensions stemming from allegations about the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. *—PTI*



MOTIHARI VOTE SCAM

In a booth in the Motihari Assembly constituency, a BJP polling agent was showing voters party symbols and slips inside the booth to coerce them, the RJD alleged.

BYPOLL VOTER TURNOUT

Telangana's Jubilee Hills	48%	Mizoram's Dampa	80%
Jharkhand's Ghatshila	74%	Punjab' Tarn Taran	61%
Odisha's Nuapada	79%	Rajasthan's Antha	80%
J&K's Nagrota	75%	J&K's Budgam	50%

Muslim women voters at Telangana's Jubilee Hills bypolls **PHOTO: PTI**

Ex-WB edu minister gets bail in school job scam

KOLKATA, 11 NOV

Former West Bengal education minister Partha Chatterjee, one of the key accused in the cash-for-school jobs scam, was released on bail on Tuesday, three years and three months after he was arrested by the ED.

The TMC leader was arrested by the CBI in multiple cases related to the state School Service Commission recruitment irregularities in schools for teachers in classes 9-10, 11-12 and non-teaching staff in Groups C and D from the commission's panel for the year 2016.

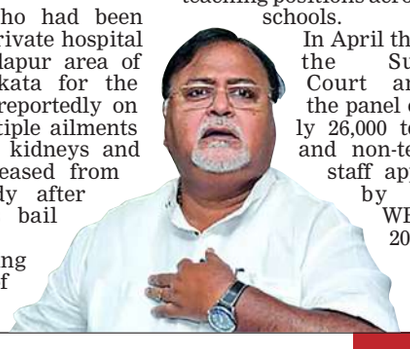
Chatterjee, who had been admitted to a private hospital in the Mukundapur area of south-east Kolkata for the past 203 days, reportedly on account of multiple ailments concerning his kidneys and heart, was released from judicial custody after furnishing his bail bond.

After recording the testimony of the eighth and last witness, the CBI court accepted the bail prayer. Chatterjee had earlier been granted bail in the ED cases, while the Supreme Court had, on 18 August, said he could be granted bail.

Chatterjee was arrested by the ED after cash worth over Rs 50 crore and gold ornaments worth Rs 4.5 crore were recovered from twin residences owned by his close aide Arpita Mukherjee during raids linked to the scam.

The alleged corruption brought to surface thousands of illegal appointments of unqualified candidates to teaching positions across state schools.

In April this year, the Supreme Court annulled the panel of nearly 26,000 teachers and non-teaching staff appointed by the WBSSC in 2016. *—PTI*



AMID DELHI BLAST

PM seals energy deal with Bhutan

THIMPHU, 11 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced a series of initiatives to strengthen India–Bhutan ties, focusing on energy cooperation and cross-border connectivity.

Speaking in Thimphu during celebrations for the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Modi said that India and Bhutan are linked "not just by borders, but by culture and values".

He announced that Bhutan's Gelephu and Samtse cities will soon be connected to India's rail network, improving market access for Bhutanese industries and farmers.

A key highlight of the visit was the launch of a new 1,000-megawatt hydroelectric project in Bhutan, which will increase the country's hydropower capacity by 40 per cent. Both nations also signed agreements to expand cooperation in solar energy, diversifying their renewable energy partnership beyond hydropower.

India will also assist in building an immigration checkpoint near Gelephu to facilitate travel and investment, and will continue supporting Bhutan's Gelephu Mindfulness City initiative.

Modi reaffirmed India's Rs 10,000 crore contributions to Bhutan's ongoing Five-Year Plan, underscoring the deep economic and cultural partnership between the neighbors. "Connectivity creates opportunity, and opportunity creates prosperity," he said, calling the India–Bhutan relationship a model of trust and shared development. *—PTI*

NSA Ajit Doval, Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Prime Minister Narendra Modi with in Bhutan on Tuesday **PHOTO: PTI**

Don: Pretty close to India trade deal, tariffs willfall

WASHINGTON, 11 NOV

The US is "pretty close" to striking a fair trade pact with India, President Donald Trump said, indicating that tariffs on Indian goods could ease "at some point."

Speaking at a ceremony in the Oval Office, where Sergio Gor was sworn in as the new US Ambassador to India, Trump said, "We are getting a fair trade deal. We had unfair ones before. They're very good negotiators, Sergio, so take a look at that."

This marks Trump's second such remark in less than two weeks, raising speculation of progress in the long-pending negotiations. He added, "We're making a much different deal than we had in the past. Right now, they don't love me, but they'll love us again."

When asked about tariffs, Trump said the rates were high due to India's Russian oil imports but added, "They've reduced that substantially. We're going to be bringing tariffs down."

The US earlier imposed 50 per cent tariffs on Indian imports, including 25 per cent on Russian oil-linked purchases, drawing criticism from New Delhi as "unfair and unjustified."

Both sides have completed five rounds of talks, with officials in New Delhi saying the deal is "very near," as negotiations converge on final terms. *—PTI*

AFTER DELHI AIRPORT CHAOS

Report GPS spoofing in 10 minutes: DGCA to pilots

MUMBAI/ NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Aviation watchdog DGCA has asked airlines, pilots and air traffic controllers to report GPS spoofing incidents within 10 minutes of the occurrences, after such incidents caused massive delays at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA).

Global Positioning System (GPS)/ Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) spoofing and jamming refers to attempts to manipulate a user's navigation system by giving false signals.

"In view of the recent occurrences of GPS spoofing and GNSS interference reported in and around IGI Airport, New Delhi, it is imperative that all aviation stakeholders ensure prompt detection and real-time reporting of such events to maintain flight safety and operational integrity," the circular said.

"Any pilot, ATC controller, or technical unit detecting abnormal GPS behaviour (eg. position anomalies, navigation errors, loss of GNSS signal integrity, or spoofed location data) shall initiate real time reporting (within 10 minutes of occurrence)," The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a three-page circular issued on 10 November.

The initial report should compulsorily have details such as date and time of occurrence, aircraft type and registration, airline name, flight route and coordinates of occurrence or area affected.

Also, the watchdog has said the entities should mention about the type of interference as to whether it was "jamming / spoofing / signal loss / integrity error" as well as aircraft equipment affected by the interference.

According to the DGCA, airline operators, pilots and Air Traffic Services (ATS) units may include further supporting details such as preservation of system logs, screenshots or images of the Flight Management System (FMS), and records of effects on connected systems and platforms.

All aircraft operators, flight crew and Airports Authority of India (AAI), including Air Traffic Control (ATC) and Communication, Navigation, Surveillance (CNS) units, operating in and around the Delhi airport have been asked to follow the instructions in the circular.

In India, as many as 465 GPS interference and spoofing incidents were reported in the border region, mostly in the Amritsar and Jammu areas, between November 2023 and February 2025. *—PTI*

Delhi HC bins Kejriwal & Sisodia's 'phansi ghar' plea

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The Delhi High Court has declared that the petition filed by AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia, challenging summons issued by the Delhi Legislative Assembly's privileges committee regarding the 'phansi ghar' (execution room) issue, is "not maintainable". Justice Sachin Datta made this observation during a hearing on Tuesday, scheduling further proceedings for 12 November.

The Assembly has summoned Kejriwal, Sisodia, and other leaders to appear before the committee on 13 November. They argued that the notice is invalid as it lacks a proper complaint or breach of privilege motion. Their petition highlights concerns over jurisdiction and claims the proceedings infringe on their fundamental rights.

The 'phansi ghar' was inaugurated on 22 August, 2022, as a memorial to freedom fighters, an event attended by Kejriwal and Sisodia. The privileges committee's inquiry into the structure's authenticity, which the petitioners believe exceeds its jurisdiction, was raised months after the Legislative Assembly commenced. *—PTI*

He was an introvert, says Umar's family

He was allegedly driving the car that blew up

SRINAGAR, 11 NOV

The family of the man suspected to be involved in the Delhi blast near Red Fort metro station said cannot believe that he could be involved in terror activities.

Dr Umar Nabi was allegedly driving the Hyundai i20 car that was used in the blast near the parking area of the Red Fort Metro Station on Monday, killing at least 12 people. He hails from Koil village in Pulwama, they said.

Muzamila, sister-in-law of Nabi, said he was an introvert right from his childhood, did not have many friends and used to focus on his studies and work.

"He was working as a faculty at a college in Faridabad. He called on Friday saying he is busy with exam-inations and will return home after three days. He was a reserved kind of person right from childhood," Muzamila said.

She insisted that Umar was not the kind of person to get involved in terror activities.

"We struggled a lot to ensure he gets educated so that he is able to take care of himself and the family. This is unbelievable," she added.

Additionally, Police in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday detained Ghulam Nabi Bhat, the father of accused for questioning, officials said.

Suspects Dr Umar Nabi & Dr Muzammil Ganaie; (Inset) Nabi's sister-in-law Muzamila; Nabi's father Ghulam Nabi Bhat detained by police for questioning in Pulwama, J&K, on Tuesday **PHOTO: PTI**

ACCUSED GANAIE'S KIN DENIES TERROR LINKS

The family of Dr Muzammil Ganaie, who was arrested after 360 kilograms of explosives was recovered from his rented room in Faridabad on Tuesday claimed that there was no indication of the medico's involvement in terror activities.

"It is being alleged that he is big terrorist. We have no knowledge of it.

For the past five decades, there has been no case against anyone from our family," Azad Shakil, brother of Muzammil, told PTI at his Pulwama residence. *—PTI*

Agencies search doctors' homes in 3 UP cities

LUCKNOW/ SAHARANPUR, 11 NOV

Security agencies widened their probe across Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday following the Delhi car blast, conducting searches in multiple districts including Lucknow, Saharanpur and Lakhimpur Kheri.

Heightened security checks continued at public places amid stepped-up scrutiny of individuals with suspected links to the accused held so far.

In Lucknow, a joint team of the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), local police and central agencies carried out an extensive probe at the Muttaqipur residence of Dr. Shaheen Shahid, who was earlier arrested in connection with the Delhi blast case.

Officials collected documents and questioned family members and neighbours to gather details about her background, sources said.

In Lakhimpur Kheri, the family of Mohammad Suhail, who was detained by the Gujarat ATS on Sunday from Banaskantha district along with two others in connection with suspected terror activities, claimed he was innocent and wrongly implicated.

His mother said her son had been studying 'Hafiza' at a Darul Uloom in Muzaffarnagar for the past three years and had never been involved in any wrongdoing.

In Saharanpur, investigators traced the activities of another suspect, Dr. Adil Ahmad, who was arrested on 7 November by the Jammu and Kashmir Police with the assistance of the local police and Special Operations Group (SOG).

Adil, a resident of Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir, had rented a house in Bapu Vihar Colony on Ambala Road in Saharanpur, where he was working at Famous Hospital for the past six months, offical said. *—PTI*

Nabbed doc linked to JeM recruiting

Father learnt about her arrest through media

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

A woman doctor, who was among eight people arrested after the busting of an inter-state terror module, was part of the newly formed Jamaat-ul-Mominaat, an organisation launched by banned Jaish-e-Mohammed last month, officials claimed on the basis of preliminary investigations.

Dr Shaheen Sayeed, who was taken to Srinagar on Monday and placed under arrest, is alleged to be part of Jaish-e-Mohammed's (JeM) women recruitment wing in India.

The officials alleged that Dr Sayeed, believed to be in her mid-30s and part of the Al-Falah University in Faridabad, was in touch with her handler in Pakistan with possible instructions to recruit more and more women for terror activities.

Dr Shaheen Sayeed **PHOTO: PTI**

In Lucknow, her father pleaded his ignorance about her involvement in terror activities and said that he had come to know about her arrest through the media only.

"I last spoke to Shaheen about a month ago. I have never heard her mention Dr Muzammil or anyone connected to such activities," Ansari said.

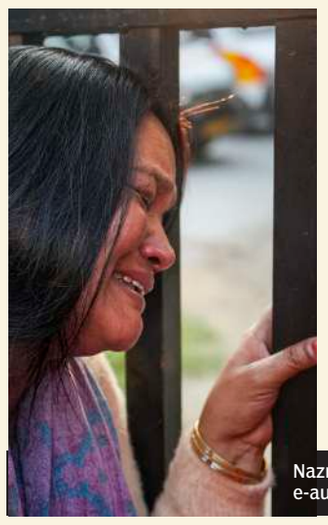
Jamaat-ul-Mominaat was formed after the banned JeM decided to form its women's unit. The announcement for its formation was made through a letter in the name of JeM chief and UN-designated terrorist Masood Azhar in October this year, with Sadiya Azhar being nominated as its chief.

Sadiya is the wife of Yusuf Azhar, who was among many people killed during Operation Sindoor on 7 May, when India struck JeM's headquarters at Markaz Subhanallah in Bahawalpur.

The alleged role of Dr Sayeed indicated that JeM is following ISI policy of recruiting female attackers on the lines adopted by groups like Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) which used women in combat or suicide operations. *—PTI*

A view of Chandni Chowk's closed market as the Delhi Police tightened security around the area after a blast occurred in a car near the Red Fort Metro station, in New Delhi, on Tuesday **PHOTO: ANI**

FALSE BOMB SCARE CALLS POUR AFTER CAR BLAST



Nazma mourns the death of her brother Jumman, who was riding his e-autorickshaw when he died in the Delhi blast **PHOTO: PTI**

Hours after the bomb blast near Red Fort, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received at least five calls about "unclaimed" vehicles and bags, all of which later turned out to be false alarms, an official said on Tuesday.

"The first call was received at 9.15pm from Bijwasan, reporting an unclaimed bag. We rushed a fire vehicle immediately dispatched to the spot, but nothing suspicious was found," the DFS official said.

He further said that minutes later, at 9.27pm, another call came from Vasant Vihar about an unclaimed car. Similarly, one fire tender was sent to the location and returned around 10.15pm after verification.

Another was received at 9.34pm, in which an alert was made from Sector 13 in Dwarka, followed by a 9.35pm alert from near Kashmere Gate, both concerning unattended cars.

Officials emphasised that the spate of alerts reflected the sense of fear and unease among residents following the Red Fort blast. *—PTI*

The suspicious 11-hour trail of the 'car bomb'

>>>CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Delhi Police have reconstructed the car's full 11-hour trajectory, using toll data and CCTV footage. The vehicle began its journey from Faridabad early Monday morning, first appearing outside Asian Hospital around 7.30am.

It crossed the Badarpur toll plaza into Delhi at 8.13am and was next captured near a petrol pump in Okhla at 8.20am.

At 3.19pm, the car entered a parking area adjacent to the Red Fort complex and remained there for nearly three hours. Barely 24 minutes after the vehicle left the parking area, at around 6.52pm, a powerful explosion tore through the moving car. At 6.22pm, CCTV footage showed it leaving the parking zone and moving towards the Red Fort. A powerful blast ripped through the car at 6.52pm, tearing it apart, scattering body parts, damaging nearby buildings and the metro station, and triggering panic among commuters and tourists.

Police are examining CCTV footage from Delhi and the wider NCR to track every movement of the vehicle and identify anyone who may have been in contact with it. Footage also shows the car visiting a petrol pump to obtain a pollution certificate — believed to be a step to avoid suspicion at border checks.

Officials say CCTV captured a "masked man" driving the vehicle before the blast. Investigators are scrutinising footage from multiple parking lots and surrounding routes. Delhi Police, NIA and central intelligence teams have spread out across Delhi and Kashmir.

Security across the capital has been tightened. All private and commercial vehicles entering the city are being thoroughly checked. The airport, railway stations and bus terminals are under heightened vigil. *—PTI*

6 Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh's encounter

BIJAPUR, 11 NOV

Six Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Tuesday, police said. The gunfight broke out at around 10am in the Indravati National Park area when a joint team of security personnel was out on anti-Naxalite operation based on inputs about the presence of senior Maoist cadres in the region, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav said. Personnel belonging to police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) from Bijapur and Dantewada districts and Special Task Force (STF) were involved in the operation, he said. *—PTI*

India-Nepal border talks in Delhi from 12 November

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

India and Nepal will hold their annual border talks in Delhi from 12-14 November, focusing on collaboration to combat trans-frontier crime and enhance real-time intelligence sharing. This is the first high-level meeting between the Indian Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Nepal's Armed Police Force (APF) following the 'Gen Z'-inspired protests in Kathmandu in September. The Indian delegation will be led by SSB Director General Sanjay Singhal, while the Nepalese side will be headed by APF Inspector General Raju Aryal. The talks aim to establish "effective mechanisms" for crime prevention and improve coordinated border management. *—PTI*

MOST POLLUTED DAY IN 2025

GRAP 3 in Delhi; Schools to go hybrid

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The Delhi government has directed schools to transition to hybrid classes for students up to Class 5 due to a significant rise in pollution levels. For the first time this year, Delhi saw pollution hit "severe" levels.

This directive was issued after the Centre activated anti-pollution measures under Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

An order from the Directorate of Education stated, "All heads of schools of government, government-aided, and unaided recognised private schools of DoE, NDMC, MCD, and Delhi Cantonment Board are directed to conduct classes in schools for children up to Class 5 in a hybrid mode, i.e., both in physical and online mode (wherever online mode is feasible) with immediate effect until further orders."

Additionally, Delhi recorded its first "severe" air quality day of the year on Tuesday, with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching 428, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

The air quality, which was in the "very poor" for the last several days, slipped into the "severe" zone as stagnant weather conditions and local emissions contributed to a spike in pollution levels. *—PTI*

12 acquittals later, Koli wins in Nithari case

>>>CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Supreme Court's latest decision to acquit Surendra Koli in the final pending Nithari case comes af-ter a long and complex legal battle spanning nearly two decades.

Koli's review petition against his conviction was dismissed in 2014. However, in January 2015, the Al-lahabad High Court commuted his death sentence to life imprisonment, citing an inordinate delay in the disposal of his mercy plea.

In a major turning point, the Allahabad High Court in October 2023 acquitted Koli and co-accused Mon-inder Singh Pandher in several other Nithari cases, overturning the death sentences handed down by a trial court in 2017. The High Court set aside Koli's convictions in 12 cases and Pandher's in two.

The CBI and victims' families challenged these acquittals before the Supreme Court, but the top court dismissed all 14 appeals on 30 July this year.

Surendra Koli and Mohinder Pandher being taken to jail after a CBI court awarded death sentence to them in Nithari killing case **PHOTO: PTI**

On 7 October, the Supreme Court reserved its verdict on Koli's curative petition, remarking that the plea "deserves to be allowed" given the "anomalous situation" created by his acquittal in all other re-lated cases.

The bench had also questioned the evidentiary basis of the conviction, noting that it rested primarily on a statement and the recovery of akitchen knife.

The CBI's subsequent searches in the case had led to the discovery of additional human remains, deepening public scrutiny of the investigation. *—PTI*

SC denies pleas on urgent listing of anti-conversion laws

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The Supreme Court today declined to urgently list petitions challenging anti-conversion laws from states including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. A bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gavai, Justices K Vinod Chandran, and NV Anjaria announced the matter would be scheduled for a hearing in December. During proceedings, a lawyer representing one of the petitioners requested an interim hearing to stay the laws next week, to which the Chief Justice replied, "It is not possible. I have to write judgments," noting his upcoming retirement on 23 November. On 16 September, the court sought responses from the affected states regarding the petitions and granted four weeks for replies. *—PTI*

'HE'S STABLE & RECOVERING'

Dharmendra's family slams death rumours

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

Dharmendra is "stable and recovering", the veteran actor's family said on Tuesday, urging the media to stop circulating false news about his health.

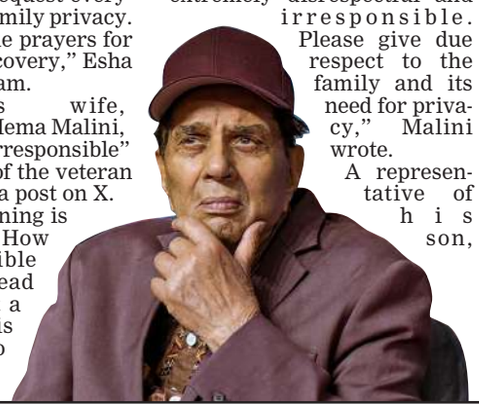
Dharmendra Kewal Krishan Deol, the 89-year-old star continues to remain under observation at a Mumbai hospital.

Earlier in the day, there were several news reports about Dharmendra's death but daughter Esha Deol dismissed them in a post on Instagram.

"The media seems to be in over-drive and spreading false news. My father is stable and recovering. We request everyone to give our family privacy. Thank you for the prayers for papa's speedy recovery," Esha wrote on Instagram.

Dharmendra's wife, actor-politician Hema Malini, also criticised "irresponsible" media coverage of the veteran actor's health in a post on X.

"What is happening is unforgivable! How can responsible channels spread false news about a person who is responding to treatment and is recovering? This is being extremely disrespectful and irresponsible. Please give due respect to the family and its need for privacy," Malini wrote.



A representative of his son, actor Sunny Deol, said the veteran star is "responding to treatment".

The statements by Esha Deol and Malini came after several prominent figures, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and lyricist Javed Akhtar, posted tributes on X. They later deleted their posts.

Dharmendra has been in and out of south Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital for several days. Malini had, earlier on Monday night, urged people to remain calm and pray for his recovery. *—PTI*

Ex-TDB president N Vasu arrested in Sabarimala case

T'PURAM, 11 NOV

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the missing gold from the Sabarimala temple arrested former Travancore Devaswom Board president N Vasu on Tuesday, sources said here.

Vasu, who had also served twice as Commissioner of the TDB before being appointed its president, was arrested following his interrogation, they said.

The arrest of Vasu, who is reportedly close to the top leadership of the state government, is one of the high-profile arrests in the case.

The Kerala High Court is monitoring the SIT probe.

He is an accused in the case relating to the disappearance of gold from the door frames of the sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) of the hill shrine, sources said.

The SIT has already arrested the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potty, along with two senior officials and a retired officer in connection with the case.

Potty is an accused in two cases related to the disappearance of gold from the gold-clad plates of the dwarapalaka (guardian deity) idols and the door frames of the sreekovil of the temple. *—PTI*

PROTEST AT COP30

Demonstrators protest against big agribusiness outside the venue for the COP30 UN Climate Summit, in Brazil. COP30, which marks a decade since the Paris Agreement, is taking place amid heightened geopolitical tensions, ongoing wars and economic uncertainty triggered by US tariffs. The US' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, along with several developed countries re-evaluating their climate commitments amid economic and energy security concerns, has created a challenging backdrop for this year's talks
PHOTO: PTI

We saw death up close: Survivors recall Delhi blast

Relatives of a victim, who died in the blast near Red Fort, mourn, outside a mortuary at Maulana Azad Medical College in New Delhi, on Tuesday
PHOTO: PTI

People were lying on the road, some bleeding, some not moving at all. There was blood everywhere. We saw death from up close," said Ram Pratap, lying on a hospital bed with his right arm tightly bandaged, recalling the deafening blast that tore through an ordinary evening near Delhi's Red Fort.

The roadside eatery owner from Bihar was among those who survived the explosion that killed 12 people and left the area surrounded in smoke and screams.

Pratap, who runs a small roadside eatery near the Red Fort, was preparing to shut for the day when the explosion ripped through the area. Speaking from his hospital bed, he described how the calm turned into a nightmare.

"It was just another evening. A few customers were waiting when suddenly there was a loud blast. The noise was so strong I could not hear anything for a few seconds. Glass shards fell on us and thick smoke engulfed everything," Pratap said.

"People were lying on the ground, some bleeding, some not moving at all. Blood was everywhere. My own hand was bleeding badly, but I did not even realise it then. We saw death from up close," he said, trying to hold back his tears.

Outside the emergency ward, one of Pratap's relatives recalled how he was standing just a few metres away when the explosion occurred. "There was a flash, then fire, then thick black smoke. I froze. I could not find my brother," he said.

"People were shouting names, crying, searching for their families. For a few minutes, no one knew who was alive," he said.

That evening, a few metres away from Pratap's eatery, Vijender Yadav had just parked his water tanker when the explosion occurred and everything went dark.

Yadav, who hails from Saharsa district in Bihar, runs a small water supply and tanker business in Delhi. His arm now rests in a sling, and his head is wrapped in bandages.

Standing outside the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan (LNJP) Hospital, his voice trembles as he recounts the horrifying scenes from that evening. "My tanker was parked on the roadside. I was just closing up when it exploded," he said.

"The blast threw me to the ground. When I got up, my clothes were soaked in blood. I saw bodies on the road, pieces of glass and flesh scattered everywhere," Yadav added.

People were screaming, some were running, and others were frozen in shock, he said, adding, "That sound is still ringing in my ears."

Yadav, who has been in the business for more than two decades, said his wife and four children live in their village in Bihar.

"I thought I would never see them again," he said, pausing. "I have three daughters. I kept thinking what would happen to them if I didn't make it? I still don't know how I survived. This chaos, this fear, it will stay with me forever."

The high-intensity blast, which ripped through a slow-moving car near the Red Fort Metro station on Monday evening, gutted several vehicles and left many injured. Several of the critically wounded later succumbed, taking the death toll to 12.

Karamjot, who sells bags in Chandni Chowk, recalled the chaos that unfolded moments after the blast. "I saw a large number of people running towards me from the Red Fort side. Everyone was screaming. I ran towards the gurdwara and took shelter there until things calmed down," she said.

JP Mishra, an employee at the Jain Mandir sports club, said locals rushed to help the injured before emergency teams arrived. "When I reached the spot, I saw dismembered bodies everywhere. Some of the body parts even came under my feet," he said, his voice trembling.

Another eyewitness, 45-year-old Karmayta Devi, who lives near the Jain Mandir, said her family could not sleep the entire night. "It felt like an earthquake. The ground was shaking. My 15-year-old son, who saw the bodies lying around, was terrified. Some parts of the bodies even flew into the Jain Mandir compound," she recounted.

Ten-year-old Priya, who lives close to the Red Fort, said the blast was so strong that the cement from the ceiling of her house fell off. "Our school is closed today. We couldn't sleep the whole night. I have never heard such a loud sound before," she said softly.

Meanwhile, shopkeepers fear that they might incur losses for the next few months.

The explosion has left the neighbourhood scarred, with fear and disbelief still hanging heavy in the air as investigators try to piece together the sequence of events behind the deadly blast. *—PTI*

SALAR ساڈا

With 5.2L projects, T'gana tops conservation efforts

With the construction of 5.2 lakh water conservation structures, Telangana has emerged as the best-performing state under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) 1.0 initiative, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said on Tuesday.

Chhattisgarh secured second place with 4.05 lakh completed projects, followed by Rajasthan with 3.64 lakh structures, Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil said.

Paatil announced this year's awards being given under the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign.

The awards will be presented at the 6th National Water Awards by President Droupadi Murmu on 18 November.

Launched in September 2024 in Surat, JSJB promotes community-led water stewardship through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society model. States were tasked with creating a minimum of 10,000 artificial recharge and storage structures, while municipal corporations were required to complete at least 10,000, and urban local bodies (ULBs) 2,000 each.

Uttar Pradesh dominated the northern zone, with Mirzapur taking the top slot with 35,509 completed works, followed by Varanasi (24,409) and Jalaun (16,279). All three districts will receive Rs 2 crore each.

Chhattisgarh swept the eastern zone's top positions with Balod ranking first with 92,742 structures, followed by Rajnandgaon (58,967) and Raipur (36,282).

In the southern zone, Telangana districts once again led the performance metrics — Adilabad topped the list with 98,693 works, followed by Nalgonda (84,827) and Mancherial (84,549).

Madhya Pradesh's East Nimar ranked first in the western zone with 1.29 lakh completed structures, while Tripura's North Tripura led the northeastern and hilly states category.

In total, 67 districts have been selected for awards across categories, including districts from Bihar, Odisha, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. Cash prizes ranged from Rs 1 crore to Rs 2 crore for top performers, and Rs 25 lakh for districts under Category 3.

Raipur Municipal Corporation topped the national municipal corporations list with 33,082 completed works, followed by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (14,363) and the Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation (14,331). Each will receive Rs 2 crore.

Among the top 50 non-municipal ULBs, Guna Municipality in Madhya Pradesh ranked first with 2,227 works and will receive Rs 40 lakh.

The ministry also recognised contributions from the corporate and civil society ecosystem. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Water Mission and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) were named the best industry associations.

Jaltara Save Groundwater topped the NGO category with 8,256 completed works, followed by GirGanga Parivar and the Art of Living, he said.

Philanthropists Karmabhoomi se Matrabhoomi and Hasmukhbhai from Gujarat were honoured for supporting local water conservation efforts.

Fourteen officers from the Central Water Commission and Central Ground Water Board were recognised for district-level coordination across Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Telangana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttarakhand.

A total of 100 awards have been announced this year across states, districts, ULBs, partner ministries, NGOs, industries, philanthropists, and nodal officers. *—PTI*

Chhattisgarh secured second place with 4.05 lakh completed projects, followed by Rajasthan with 3.64 lakh structures, Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil said
PHOTO: PTI

LETTERS

write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Football players' desperation boils over as ISL crisis deepens

With clubs halting operations, players voicing rare public dissent, and the federation seeking legal guidance, the ISL faces perhaps the most severe crisis in its 11-year history
PHOTO: PTI

India's top footballers issued an unprecedented joint appeal on Tuesday, urging the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to immediately resolve the administrative paralysis that has brought the Indian Super League (ISL) to a halt, warning that their frustration has now turned to "desperation". The plea follows the AIFF's announcement last week that it had received no bids for the league's commercial rights—an outcome that has plunged Indian football's flagship competition into uncertainty.

The federation had issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) on 16 October inviting bids for a 15-year contract covering broadcast, sponsorship and media rights, match production, marketing, and grassroots investment. But with no takers, the future of the ISL—which was launched in 2014 with grand ambitions of transforming the sport's popularity and revenue base—remains stalled.

"Where we are right now is not a delay anymore, it's a standstill for the coaches, fans, staff members, and players. We have worked too hard, sacrificed too much to let our season vanish in silence," said star defender Sandesh Jhingan in a video message on his social media handles. "Every day we wait, Indian football bleeds. We need action and we need it now."

India captain Sunil Chhetri, goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and several other national team regulars shared a joint text statement, declaring that players were united in their demand to restart the season. "To put it simply, we want to play, and now. Our anger, frustration and distress has now been replaced by desperation, desperation to play the game we love, in front of our families and our fans," the statement read.

Chhetri added on Instagram that players were standing "shoulder to shoulder, willing to do whatever it takes to resurrect the sport we love".

The players' appeal reflects deepening anxiety across the domestic football ecosystem, where clubs, coaches, support staff and commercial partners have been left without clarity over the season's status. Several top clubs have already curtailed operations, with reigning champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant suspending all football activities indefinitely on Saturday. The Kolkata club said it would review the contracts of players and staff next month if the stalemate continued.

The root of the crisis lies in the AIFF's failure to secure a replacement for Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), the ISL's long-time commercial partner. The Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between the AIFF and FSDL, which shaped the league's structure for a decade, is due to expire in December 2025. A breakdown in negotiations, coupled with strained relations, meant the AIFF was forced to seek a new partner through an open tender but the absence of bids has raised questions about the league's commercial viability and the federation's readiness to handle the transition.

The tender had included several incentives for clubs, including a waiver of franchise fees from the 2025–26 season, the introduction of video support systems and VAR, and the implementation of promotion and relegation as directed by the Supreme Court. The proposed partner would also-

- Despite these measures, industry observers suggest potential bidders may have been deterred by the scale of financial risk, unresolved structural issues and the legal oversight involved. The entire process is being monitored by the Supreme Court, which had appointed retired Justice Nageswara Rao to head the AIFF's Bid Evaluation Committee.

have been responsible for match production with a minimum of 11 cameras, transparent allocation of media rights, grassroots investment, with 70 per cent earmarked for ISL clubs, and adherence to a salary cap of Rs 18 crore per club from 2025–26.

Despite these measures, industry observers suggest potential bidders may have been deterred by the scale of financial risk, unresolved structural issues and the legal oversight involved. The entire process is being monitored by the Supreme Court, which had appointed retired Justice Nageswara Rao to head the AIFF's Bid Evaluation Committee. The committee is now preparing a report on the failed tender, which will be submitted to the apex court for further direction.

In their statement, players urged administrators to show the same urgency they have demanded from the football community. "This is a plea to all those involved in running our sport in the country, to do whatever it takes to get the football season underway. India needs its competitive football now more than ever," they wrote. "As for us, we remain committed, professional and ready to walk out of that tunnel and onto the pitch the moment we're told we can. All we ask of those running our beautiful game is to match our desperation with honest intent. We've found ourselves in a very dark tunnel for long. We could do with a little light."

For now, Indian football remains in limbo. With clubs halting operations, players voicing rare public dissent, and the federation seeking legal guidance, the ISL faces perhaps the most severe crisis in its 11-year history. Whether the AIFF can quickly construct a new commercial framework, or whether the impasse deepens, may determine the trajectory of Indian football for years to come. *—PTI*

12 killed, 36 injured in car suicide attack in Islamabad

Security officials examine a damaged vehicle after a suicide bombing outside a district court, in Islamabad on Tuesday **PHOTO: PTI**

ISLAMABAD, 11 NOV

A suicide bomber on Tuesday detonated his explosives near a police vehicle outside a court in Pakistan's capital, killing at least 12 people and wounding 36 others, officials said.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi , who visited the site of the blast, said the attacker wanted to enter the court complex, but on failure, he detonated his explosives near a police vehicle at the gate of the building. The minister said that security personnel and a lawyer were aomg the injured, in the blast near the Islamabad District Judicial Complex.

- Defence Minister said Pakistan was in a "state of war" and blamed the Afghanistan Taliban while Prime Minister said the attack had Indian support

No group or individual claimed responsibility for the attack, but such strikes are usually carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistani (TTP).

"Our first priority is to identify the attacker," Naqvi said. "We are linking today's blast with many factors. There are several messages of it...," he said. "I don't want to say anything at this point, as often the Indians do (start blaming soon after such incidents). "

However, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said the Afghan Taliban has sent a message through the bombing and declared that Pakistan was in a "state of war."

"The rulers of Kabul can stop terrorism in Pakistan, but bringing this war all the way to Islamabad is a message from Kabul," he said.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif accused groups "active with Indian support" of being involved in the attack. Pakistan has accused India of supporting the Afghan Taliban. *—Agencies*

China curbs 'fentanyl' exports after US deal

WASHINGTON, 11 NOV

In a move to address the opioid crisis, China has introduced new export restrictions on 13 chemicals used in fentanyl production, impacting the US, Canada, and Mexico. This step follows President Donald Trump's recent discussions with Chinese leader Xi Jinping aimed at easing trade tensions. Trump announced a reduction of tariffs from 20 per cent to 10 per cent in exchange for China's commitment to combat fentanyl trafficking. "The president has taken every possible action to stop the flow of illicit narcotics," commented White House deputy press secretary Anna Kelly. Cooperation on fentanyl has fluctuated, having been disrupted by tariffs in previous years. *—PTI*

Migrant boat from Myanmar capsizes, 27 dead

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 NOV

The death toll from a capsized boat carrying Rohingya migrants from Myanmar has climbed to 27, with rescuers recovering more bodies off Malaysia's northern Langkawi island. The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency reported finding eight bodies, bringing the total to 20 deaths and 14 survivors. In Thai waters, six more bodies were recovered, with identification indicating they were Rohingya refugees. Approximately 70 people were believed to have been on board from Buthidaung, Myanmar. The UN refugee agency and the International Organisation for Migration said there have been over 600 missing or dead among 5,300 refugees this year. *—PTI*

Romania finds drone parts after Russian strikes

BUCHAREST, 11 NOV

Romanian authorities reported finding possible drone fragments in the southeastern border region following overnight Russian strikes on Ukrainian Danube ports. The Romanian Ministry of Defence issued an alert after detecting drones near NATO airspace. Although weather conditions hampered the deployment of fighter jets, military teams located fragments approximately five kilometres inside Romanian territory. This incident is part of a concerning trend, as breaches of Romanian airspace by drones have surged recently. Officials noted that the fragments resemble those employed by the Russian army. In response, Romania, along with Poland, is enhancing its air defences against potential drone threats following incursions that have raised security concerns amongst NATO allies. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Zohran Mamdani appoints deputy mayor

NEW YORK, 11 NOV

Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani has appointed veteran budget official Dean Fuleihan as his first deputy mayor, bringing over four decades of government experience. Fuleihan, previously former Mayor Bill de Blasio's budget director, will lead City Hall operations as Mamdani implements his ambitious agenda, including proposals for free childcare and public transport. "It is important... that we do so both with a relentless imagination as to what politics could be," said Mamdani, who is set to become the youngest mayor in generations. He also introduced Elle Bisgaard-Church as his chief of staff. With extensive experience in budgeting and operations, Fuleihan is expected to navigate the bureaucracy and secure support for Mamdani's initiatives from state lawmakers. *—PTI*

Syria joins US to fight IS

Trump hosts Syrian Prez at the WH in a historic visit

WASHINGTON, 11 NOV

President Donald Trump hosted Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa at the White House on Monday, welcoming the once-pariah state into a US-led global coalition to fight the Islamic State group.

It was the first visit to the White House by a Syrian head of state since the Middle Eastern country gained independence from France in 1946 and comes after the US lifted sanctions imposed on Syria during the decades the country was ruled by the Assad family. Al-Sharaa led the rebel forces that toppled Syrian President Bashar Assad last December and was named the country's interim leader in January.

Trump and al-Sharaa — who once had ties to al-Qaida and had a USD10 million US bounty on his head — first met in May in Saudi Arabia. Speaking to reporters after the closed-door meeting, Trump said "we want to see Syria become a country that's very successful."

After the meeting, Syria's foreign ministry announced that it would became the 90th country to join a global coalition to tackle IS. The coalition aims to prevent foreign fighters from joining ISIL's ranks and eliminating the remaining elements of the group from across the Middle East.

President Donald Trump, left, shakes hands with Syria's President Ahmad al-Sharaa, at the White House in Washington, Monday, **PHOTO: PTI**

Additionally, the US Treasury Department will reportedly announce new measures to lift economic restrictions on Syria and provide "compliance clarity for investors".

The administration will also issue an 180-day suspension of the Caesar Act, which since 2019 had sanctioned the former Syrian government. Later, speaking to Fox News, al-Sharaa ruled out joining the Abraham Accords with Israel. *—Agencies*

Senate finally approves bill to end longest shutdown

WASHINGTON, 11 NOV

The US Senate passed legislation on Monday to reopen the government, bringing the longest shutdown in history closer to an end as a small group of Democrats ratified a deal with Republicans. The 41-day shutdown could last a few more days as members of the House, which has been on recess since mid-September, return to Washington to vote.

The final Senate vote, 60-40, broke a gruelling stalemate that lasted more than six weeks as Democrats demanded that Republicans negotiate with them to extend health care tax credits that expire 1 January.

The Republicans never did, and five moderate Democrats eventually switched sides as federal food aid was delayed, airport delays worsened and hundreds of thousands of federal workers continued to go unpaid. *—PTI*

Netanyahu, Kushner talk Gaza in Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with special envoy and son in law of US President Trump, Jared Kushner **PHOTO: X**

DEIR AL-BALAH, 11 NOV

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Jared Kushner, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and chief negotiator to discuss the next stages of the fragile Gaza ceasefire. Israel, meanwhile, returned the remains of another 15 Palestinians.

The remains of four hostages are still in Gaza after Hamas released the remains of another on Sunday.

The first stage of the ceasefire agreement that took effect on 10 October is nearing its end. The next stage calls for the implementation of a governing body for Gaza and the deployment of an international stabilisation force. It is not clear where either stands.

Netanyahu and Kushner discussed the progress and future of the ceasefire, said Israeli government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian. He did not say where those negotiations were headed.

Kushner also was helping to lead negotiations to secure safe passage for 150-200 trapped Hamas militants.

Kushner's meeting coincides with the Hamas releasing the remains of Hadar Goldin, a soldier killed in the Gaza Strip in 2014. Goldin's remains were reportedly a key aspect of the negotiation process. Kushner and Netanyahu also discussed plans for the disarmament of Hamas, the deployment of international security forces and the establishment of a technocratic government in the territory that excludes Hamas. *—Agencies*

Houthi rebels halt attacks on Israel and Red Sea shipping

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Yemen's Houthi rebels have indicated they have ceased their attacks against Israel and shipping in the Red Sea, amidst a delicate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

In an undated letter to Hamas' Qassam Brigades, Maj Gen Yusuf Hassan al-Madani, the Houthi military's chief of staff, noted, "We are closely monitoring developments and declare that if the enemy resumes its aggression against Gaza, we will return to our military operations deep inside the Zionist entity, and we will reinstate the ban on Israeli navigation in the Red and Arabian Seas."

While the Houthis have not formally acknowledged a cessation of their regional operations, no attacks have been claimed since a ceasefire began on 10 October. Their earlier campaign had resulted in the deaths of at least nine mariners and the sinking of four ships, as it disrupted shipping through the Red Sea.

- While the Houthis have not formally acknowledged a cessation of their operations, no attacks have been claimed since ceasefire began on 10 October

The most recent attack occurred on 29 September, targeting the Dutch-flagged cargo ship Minervagracht, leading to one death and one injury. The group also faces increasing threats from Saudi Arabia, while taking several UN and aid workers hostage, alleging without evidence that they were spies. *—PTI*

Thailand accuses Cambodia of laying fresh landmines

BANGKOK, 11 NOV

Thailand's Army has accused Cambodia for laying new landmines in the contested border territory, an assertion Phnom Penh "categorically" denied.

On Monday, four Thai soldiers were injured after stepping on a landmine while patrolling the border. The country's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul then suspended implementation of the Thai-Cambodian peace agreement and the planned release of 18 captured Cambodian troops. Defence Minister Nattapon Narkphanit said the landmine was likely freshly laid because the explosion occurred on a path regularly patrolled. *—Agencies*

People attend the funeral of Hadar Goldin, an Israeli soldier killed in Gaza in 2014 whose body was released on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

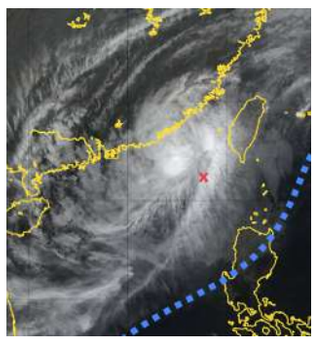
Over 3,000 people evacuated, schools and offices shuttered, and the army's on alert **PHOTO: AP**

Taiwan evacuates thousands ahead of storm Fung-wong

TAIPEI, 11 NOV

Taiwan has evacuated over 3,300 individuals from vulnerable areas and closed schools and offices ahead of tropical storm Fung-wong, which has already claimed at least 18 lives in the Philippines and displaced more than 1.4 million people. The storm, initially classified as a super typhoon with winds reaching 185kph, made landfall in the Philippines on Sunday and is expected to weaken as it approaches Taiwan, likely making landfall near Kaohsiung on Wednesday.

"It's not mass casualty in one place," said Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, deputy director of the Office of Civil Defense in the Philippines, referring to the multiple landslides that caused casualties.



The storm is forecast to sweep across the Taiwan and exit from the northeastern side by Wednesday evening. China has also activated an emergency typhoon response for its southeastern provinces, while Taiwan's weather authorities have issued land warnings for the region. *—PTI*

SHAKTI, 'SOUNDS OF KUMBHA', ANOUSHKA HOPE FOR GRAMMY

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

'Sounds of Kumbha', a spiritual album inspired by the Mahakumbha and presented by singer-composer Siddhant Bhatia, has been nominated for 68th Grammy Awards in the Best Global Music Album category. The video features Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Other Indian artists include sitar maestro Anoushka Shankar, sarod artist Alam Khan, fusion group Shakti, and jazz composer Charu Suri. 'Sounds of Kumbha' was commissioned by the Uttar Pradesh government. Shakti dedicated it to late band member and tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain. *—PTI*

'UNLIKE ANY BOOK'

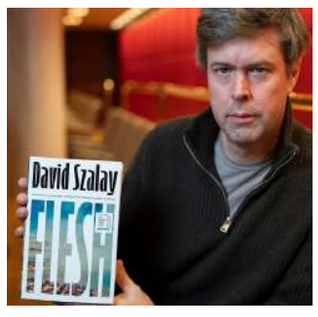
Booker judges laud 'Flesh' for its 'dark brilliance'

LONDON, 11 NOV

The Booker Prize jury said it was the unmistakable "singularity" of **David Szalay's 'Flesh'** that secured its place as the 2025 winner, unveiled at a ceremony at Old Billingsgate in London.

"It's just not like any other book. It's a dark book, but we all found it a joy to read," said Irish novelist Roddy Doyle, chair of the 2025 judging panel. He noted that the shortlisted works shared two key qualities: authors in complete command of language and rhythm, and novels that no one else could have written.

"All of the books, in six different and very fresh ways, explore individuals trying to live with and understand other people. They are all brilliantly written and brilliantly human," he added.



- The shortlisted works shared two key qualities: authors in complete command of language and rhythm, and novels that no one else could have written.

Doyle was joined on the panel by novelist Ayobami Adebayo; actor, producer and publisher Sarah Jessica Parker; writer and critic Chris Power; and novelist Kiley Reid.

Indian author Kiran Desai, who missed out on a second Booker win, described her shortlisted novel 'The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny' as an attempt to portray "global loneliness through the lens of a long, unresolved love story". She said she wanted to craft "a present-day romance with an old-fashioned beauty", shaped by the journeys of modern, globalised Indians whose stories sprawl across borders.

At 667 pages, judges called Desai's novel "an epic of love and family, India and America, tradition and modernity". *—PTI*

Iraq votes as Shiite party boycotts polls

BANGKOK, 11 NOV

Iraqis headed to the polls on Tuesday to vote in a parliamentary election marked by tight security and a boycott by a major political bloc.

The popular Sadrist Movement, led by influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, is boycotting the polls. Al-Sadr's bloc won the largest number of seats in the 2021 election but later withdrew after failed negotiations over forming a government, amid a standoff with rival Shiite parties. He has since boycotted the political system.

A total of 8,703 polling stations were open across the country for the general election, as voting registration was lower than the previous 2021 parliamentary elections.

The election is taking place against the backdrop of major shifts in the region over the past two years — including the wars in Gaza and Lebanon, the Israel-Iran war in June, and the fall of Syrian president Bashar Assad last December. *—PTI*

Rupee gains 16 paise amid US trade optimism

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

The rupee appreciated 16 paise to close at 88.57 against the US dollar on Tuesday, aided by firm domestic equities and optimism over a possible US-India trade deal. Progress on the US shutdown bill also improved global risk sentiment, traders said. The currency opened at 88.69, hit a high of 88.52, and a low of 88.72 before settling higher than Monday's 88.73 close. Mirae Asset ShareKhan analyst Anuj Choudhary said the rupee strengthened on a weak dollar and rising risk appetite but warned that high crude prices and importer demand could limit gains. Brent crude rose 0.34 per cent to USD 64.28 per barrel, and the dollar index inched up 0.03 per cent to 99.61. —*PTI*

Gold prices up by Rs 1,300 to Rs 1.25L per 10g

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Gold prices surged by Rs 1,300 to Rs 1,25,900 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday, driven by a weaker dollar and firm global cues, the All India Sarafa Association said. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity rose from Rs 1,24,600 in the previous session, while silver climbed Rs 2,460 to Rs 1,55,760 per kg. Analysts said bullion gained as softer US macroeconomic data fuelled expectations of a Federal Reserve rate cut next month. "Safe-haven demand and a weak dollar supported gold," said Saumil Gandhi of HDFC Securities. Globally, spot gold advanced 2.08 per cent to USD 4,082.84 an ounce and silver 3.30 per cent to USD 49.93. Analysts expect both metals to trade in a broader range with a positive bias. —*PTI*

MyBiz, Swiggy tie up to ease travel meals for business

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

MakeMyTrip's SaaS-based corporate booking platform, myBiz, has partnered with Swiggy to streamline meal expense management for corporate travellers nationwide. The collaboration allows travellers to effortlessly order meals via 'Swiggy for Work' on the Swiggy app, using their myBiz corporate wallet for payments. All transactions are automatically recorded in company expense systems, providing finance teams with real-time visibility and ensuring policy adherence. MakeMyTrip Co-Founder Rajesh Magow stated, "We're combining Swiggy's delivery infrastructure with myBiz's ecosystem to make corporate travel not just seamless, but truly end-to-end convenient." Swiggy CEO Rohit Kapoor added that the partnership ensures business travellers can focus on their work while their meals are sorted. —*Agencies*

Andhra CM Naidu opens MSME park in Prakasam

KANIGIRI, 11 NOV

Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday inaugurated an MSME park at Peddaerlapadu village in Kanigiri mandal, Prakasam, and virtually launched and laid the foundation for 50 more parks across 17 districts. Under the second phase, 15 MSME parks covering 329 acres were inaugurated, while foundations were laid for 35 government and private parks spanning 587 acres. The event also marked the opening of 25 industries involving investments worth Rs 25,256 crore. Naidu interacted with industrialists from Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Anakapalli and other districts, assuring smooth operations for businesses. "We are creating infras for power, water and roads. If you come with an idea, you can set up an industry," he said. Chandrababu Naidu highlighted that quantum computing will begin in Amaravati by January 2026, while a Drone City is coming up at Orvakal. —*PTI*

Adani to build mega battery storage facility in India

Group's planned facility in Guj to store 3,530 MWh of energy

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The Adani Group on Tuesday announced its entry into India's battery energy storage sector with plans to build a 1,126MW / 3,530MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Khavda, Gujarat.

The facility, comprising over 700 lithium-ion battery containers, will be India's largest and among the world's biggest single-location BESS installations, expected to be commissioned by March 2026.

The project forms part of the Khavda renewable energy complex, billed as the world's largest combined renewable and storage park. Advanced energy management systems will optimise performance, ensuring round-the-clock clean electricity, peak load management, and reduced transmission congestion. The BESS will also mitigate solar curtailment, enhance grid reliability, and support India's transition to a low-carbon energy system.

Speaking on the announcement, Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani said, "Energy storage is the cornerstone of a renewable-powered future.

It will be among the world's biggest single-location BESS facility, expected to come up by March '26 **PHOTO: PTI**

With this historic project, we are setting global benchmarks and reinforcing our commitment to India's energy independence and sustainability. This initiative will enable us to deliver reliable, clean, and affordable energy solutions at scale."

This move positions the Adani Group among global energy leaders investing in large-scale storage infrastructure. It is a strategic step toward strengthening India's energy security while decarbonising the power sector and enabling continuous integration of renewable energy.

The Group has outlined an ambitious roadmap to expand its storage capacity, planning an additional 15GWh by March 2027 and targeting 50GWh over the next five years. This aligns with India's net-zero goals and the global drive for sustainable energy.

Energy storage is increasingly critical as India scales up its renewable generation to meet a projected 500GW of clean power by 2030, highlighting the growing role of large-scale storage in modernising the national grid. —*Agencies*

EDTECH LISTING

Muted start for PhysicsWallah IPO, just 6% subscribed

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The initial public offering (IPO) of edtech unicorn PhysicsWallah saw weak demand on its first day of bidding Tuesday, subscribed only 6 per cent by 2.20pm, NSE data showed. Bids were placed for 1.05 crore shares against 18.62 crore on offer. The retail portion was subscribed 27 per cent, non-institutional 2 per cent, while qualified institutional buyers stayed away.

The Rs 3,480-crore issue comprises a fresh sale of Rs 3,100 crore and an offer for sale worth Rs 380 crore by founders Alakh Pandey and Prateek Boob. The price band of Rs 103–Rs 109 per share pegs the firm's valuation at over Rs 31,500 crore.

On Monday, PhysicsWallah raised Rs 1,563 crore from anchor investors. Proceeds will fund expansion of offline and hybrid centres, marketing, cloud infra, and subsidiaries Xylem Learning and Utkarsh Classes. Backed by WestBridge, Hornbill, and GSV Ventures, the company narrowed FY25 losses to Rs 243 crore on revenue of Rs 2,887 crore. The IPO closes 13 November, with listing for 18 November.—*Agencies*

Pine Labs IPO fully booked on Day 3

The IPO of fintech firm Pine Labs was fully subscribed on the final day of bidding on Tuesday. The issue received bids for 12.6 crore shares against 9.78 crore shares on offer, translating to 1.29 times subscription, NSE data showed. The quota for qualified institutional buyers was subscribed 1.9 times, while retail investors and non-institutional investors subscribed 1.1 times and 21 per cent, respectively. The Rs 3,900-crore IPO includes a fresh issue of Rs 2,080 crore and an offer for sale of Rs 1,820 crore. Pine Labs raised Rs 1,754 crore from anchor investors ahead of the issue.

RAKSHIT HARGAVE NEW HEAD

Britannia Industries shares plunge 7% as CEO Berry exits

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

The Britannia Industries' shares fell by nearly 7 per cent on the stock exchanges following the resignation of its Vice-Chairman, Managing Director, and CEO, Varun Berry, after over a decade in leadership. On Tuesday, the company's stock dropped by 6.7 per cent to Rs 5,721.70 on the BSE and Rs 5,723 on the NSE.

In a regulatory filing, Britannia announced the appointment of Rakshit Hargave as the new MD and CEO, effective 15, December 2025. Hargave previously served as CEO of Birla Opus, the paints division of Grasim Industries, part of the Aditya Birla Group. Until Hargave assumes his new role, N Venkataraman, currently Executive Director and CFO, will act as interim CEO.

Berry's resignation was accepted by the board, which waived the obligation for him to serve his notice period. His departure comes just days after the board outlined strategic priorities, aiming to position Britannia as a global total foods company. The board expressed confidence that the management team under new leadership would propel the firm to greater achievements.

"The board is confident that the management team under the new leadership will be able to take the company to newer heights," Britannia Industries stated. —*Agencies*

Markets rebound to close higher on telecom and services gains

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

Equity benchmark indices rebounded to close higher on Tuesday, led by strong buying in telecom and services shares amid optimism over a potential US-India trade deal.

After opening weak, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 411 points, or 0.49 per cent, to 83,124.03, and the NSE Nifty slipped 125 points, or 0.48 per cent, to 25,449.25. Both indices later recovered sharply, with the Sensex ending 335.97 points higher at 83,871.32 and the Nifty gaining 120.60 points to 25,694.95.

"The market opened subdued amid concerns over the Delhi explosion but recovered to close at the day's high, supported by global cues after the US Senate passed a bill ending the federal shutdown," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Gains in IT, auto, metal, FMCG and telecom stocks supported the rally. Bharat Electronics, M&M, Adani Ports, HCL Tech, Infosys and Bharti Airtel led the gainers, while Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv declined on cautious investor sentiment following weaker AUM guidance. Analysts expect momentum to continue, aided by moderating inflation and optimism on trade talks. Brent crude rose 0.33 per cent to USD 64.27 per barrel, while European, Asian markets ended higher. —*PTI*

Collins Aerospace launches USD 100M plant in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Collins Aerospace, a subsidiary of aerospace and defence major RTX, on Tuesday inaugurated a USD 100 million manufacturing facility at the KIADB Aerospace Park in Bengaluru.

Spanning 26 acres, the Collins India Operations Center (CIOC) will produce aircraft seats, lighting and cargo systems, temperature sensors, communication and navigation systems, water solutions, and evacuation slides for global markets. Integrated with artificial intelligence, robotics, and additive manufacturing technologies, the facility will enhance the company's global supply capabilities.

Collins said the centre will employ more than 2,200 people by 2026, strengthening India's role in its global production network —*PTI*

SoftBank sells Nvidia stake for $5.8bn

TOKYO, 11 NOV

Japanese conglomerate SoftBank Group Corp. on Tuesday said it has sold its entire stake in Nvidia Corp. for USD 5.83 billion, marking a strategic shift toward artificial intelligence (AI) ventures. The sale, completed in October, comes as founder Masayoshi Son seeks to expand SoftBank's footprint in the global AI ecosystem.

SoftBank reported a record profit of 2.5 trillion yen (about USD 16 billion) for the July–September quarter, far exceeding analyst estimates, with revenue up 7.7 per cent to 3.7 trillion yen (USD 24 billion). Gains from the Nvidia sale and a rebound in its Vision Fund investments drove the performance.

The Tokyo-based company also announced a four-for-one stock split effective 1 January. Its shares rose nearly 2 per cent on Tuesday and have surged 78 per cent over the past quarter.

Son has been repositioning SoftBank as a global AI powerhouse, channelling capital into projects such as OpenAI and the multibillion-dollar "Stargate" data centre initiative, while exploring partnerships with TSMC and Oracle to develop next-generation AI infrastructure. —*Agencies*

IndusInd to recover pay from ex-chiefs

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

IndusInd Bank has begun recovering salaries and bonuses from former CEO Sumant Kathpalia and ex-deputy CEO Arun Khurana after an internal probe found misconduct and misreporting.

The review followed accounting inaccuracies in derivative trades that caused a $230 million loss and led to their exits in May.

The two are also being investigated by the markets regulator for alleged insider trading and accounting lapses. A source said the board viewed the case as one of "accounting misstatements, regulatory sanctions, and internal control failure."

The clawback, permitted under 2019 banking norms, could cover December 2023–March 2025. The bank's new chief said legal reviews and a structural overhaul are underway. —*Agencies*

EQUITY MUTUAL FUND INFLOWS FALL 19% IN OCT

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

Net inflows into equity mutual fund schemes fell nearly 19 per cent to Rs 24,690 crore in October, marking the third straight monthly decline, according to the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi). The drop was attributed to higher redemptions from profit-booking amid strong market rallies. Redemptions rose to Rs 38,920 crore from Rs 35,982 crore in September, while equity AUM increased to Rs 35.16 lakh crore from Rs 33.68 lakh crore. Debt funds saw a sharp turnaround with inflows of Rs 1.59 lakh crore, reversing a Rs 1.01 lakh crore outflow in September, driving the overall industry AUM up by over 5 per cent to Rs 79.88 lakh crore.

Gold ETFs recorded inflows of Rs 7,743 crore, taking their AUM past Rs 1 lakh crore, while silver ETFs added over Rs 3,000 crore. SIP inflows remained strong at Rs 29,529 crore, with active SIP accounts rising to 9.45 crore, reflecting continued retail investor participation despite market volatility. ——*Agencies*

Vodafone Idea shares jump 6% as loss narrows

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Shares of Vodafone Idea (VI) surged more than 6 per cent on Tuesday after the debt-ridden telecom company reported a narrowed consolidated net loss of Rs 5,524 crore for the quarter ended September 2025, compared with Rs 7,176 crore a year earlier.

The stock climbed 6.4 per cent to Rs 10.11 on the NSE and 6.31 per cent on the BSE, even as broader markets traded lower the Sensex slipped 309 points to 83,226, and the Nifty fell 96 points to 25,478. VI attributed the improvement to a 27 per cent drop in finance costs and a rise in average revenue per user following tariff hikes. Finance costs declined to Rs 4,784 crore from Rs 6,614 crore, reflecting a reduction in bank debt to Rs 1,542 crore from Rs 3,250 crore.

Revenue from operations grew 2.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 11,195 crore, while ARPU rose 8.7 per cent to Rs 180. The company said its ability to meet liabilities depends on government support, fundraising, and cash generation. VI's total debt stood at Rs 2.02 lakh crore, with a negative net worth of Rs 82,460 crore as of 30 September. —*PTI*

GIG JOBS UP BY 25%

India's festive hiring jumps 17% year-on-year

MUMBAI, 11 NOV

Hiring across key consumption-linked sectors rose 17 per cent year-on-year during August–October, driven by festive demand, buoyant consumer sentiment, and expanding activity beyond metros, according to Adecco India.

The workforce solutions firm reported a 25 per cent rise in gig and temporary jobs in 2024, reflecting the growing maturity of India's flexible employment market. Temporary staffing surged across retail, e-commerce, BFSI, logistics, and hospitality ahead of Dussehra.

Adecco projected 2.16 lakh gig and temporary jobs for 2025, with 37 per cent of that achieved in three months alongside a 15–20 per cent rise in deployments. "India's festive hiring reflects strong economic confidence. Hiring and pay levels have surpassed the past three years, making 2025 the strongest since post-COVID recovery," said Deepesh Gupta, Director and Head of General Staffing, Adecco India. Female workforce participation climbed 30–35 per cent, particularly in retail, logistics, financial services, and customer support. Compensation rose 12–15 per cent for entry-level and 18–22 per cent for mid- to senior-level roles.

The hiring surge is expected to continue through the wedding season till March 2026, with tier II and III cities contributing nearly half of new demand. Emerging hubs such as Lucknow, Jaipur, Coimbatore, and Nagpur posted 21 per cent growth, outpacing metros at 14 per cent. Sector-wise, hiring grew 28 per cent in retail and e-commerce, 35–40 per cent in logistics, 30 per cent in BFSI, and 25 per cent in hospitality. Adecco expects overall hiring to expand 18–20 per cent this fiscal, hinting sustained job market momentum. —*Agencies*

Rory McIlroy seeks 7th Race to Dubai title

LONDON, 11 NOV

The Masters to complete the career Grand Slam. A home Irish Open. An away Ryder Cup. It has been a year of unforgettable said on Tuesday, career-defining wins for Rory McIlroy.

There's a good chance it will get even better in Dubai this week in the Northern Irishman's final event of the 2025 season.The No. 2-ranked McIlroy will look to be crowned Europe's No. 1 player for a fourth straight year when he competes in the European Tour's season-ending World Tour Championship starting on Thursday.

If McIlroy holds off Marco Penge and Tyrrell Hatton, the only players in range of overhauling him, he will win the Race to Dubai title for the seventh time in his career and move within one of Colin Montgomerie's record haul.Montgomerie won his season-long points titles when it was called the Order of Merit each year from 1993-99 and again in 2005.

McIlroy is tied on six with the late Seve Ballesteros, and remains committed to tailoring his schedule so he can play as many events on the European tour as possible while also working the PGA Tour calendar.

"There's a wonderful heritage to this tour. I think with the fractured nature of the men's professional game at the moment, this tour needs all of its stars to step up and play in the big events," McIlroy said.

"I understand that I am one of those people, and I want to do my utmost to help in whatever way that I can."McIlroy said he was the happiest he has felt in a long time, on and off the golf course.

He attributes some of that to stepping away from the wrangling at the boardroom level brought about by the emergence of the Saudi-funded LIV Golf breakaway circuit. *—PTI*

Rory McIlroy speaks to the media during a press conference on Tuesday before the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai **PHOTO: PTI**

IPL auction to be held in Abu Dhabi

DUBAI, 11 NOV

The Indian Premier League auction will be held in Abu Dhabi in mid-December, a BCCI official told PTI on Tuesday. It will be the third time in a row that the auction will be held overseas, following Dubai (2023) and Jeddah (2024). It is likely to be held on 15 or 16 December "Abu Dhabi has been locked in as the auction venue," the official said. It would be a mini auction following the mega auction in Saudi Arabia last year.*—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

South Africa Tests crucial for WTC cycle: Siraj

KOLKATA, 11 NOV

Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj is confident of putting up a strong show against defending World Test Championship (WTC) winners South Africa in the "crucial" Test series beginning here on Friday. India, currently third in the WTC points table, drew their away series in England before beating the West Indies at home earlier in the cycle. South Africa, on the other hand, began the defence of their WTC title with a 1-1 draw in an away Test series against Pakistan. "This series is crucial for the new WTC cycle, especially since South Africa is the defending champion. While they drew 1-1 with Pakistan, we're confident from our own good form, we created a positive environment, performed well in England, and won against the West Indies," Siraj said on JioStar. Siraj was the standout performer for India in the gruelling five-match Test series against England, finishing as the leading wicket-taker with 23 wickets. He continued his fine form against the West Indies, claiming 10 wickets across two matches.*—PTI*

Teen shuttler Naishaa loses in Kumamoto Masters

KUMAMOTO, 11 NOV

Teenage Indian shuttler Naishaa Kaur Bhatoye failed to qualify for the main draw of the Kumamoto Masters Japan after suffering a straight-game loss to New Zealand's Shaunna LI in the qualifiers here on Tuesday. The 17-year-old Indian went down 17-21, 18-21 to her higher-ranked opponent in 32 minutes in the women's singles qualification round of the Super 500 tournament. India will thus have no representation in the women's singles event, while Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy will begin their men's singles campaign in the USD 475,000 event on Wednesday. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Sumit seeks help from China embassy after visa rejection

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

India's top-ranked tennis player, Sumit Nagal, on Tuesday sought urgent intervention from the Chinese embassy here after his visa application to travel to China for the Australian Open Playoff was rejected without any reason. Nagal took to the social media platform X to make his appeal, tagging the Chinese Ambassador to India and the spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy. "Respected @China_Amb_India and @ChinaSpox_India. I am Sumit Nagal, India's No.1 tennis player. I am supposed to fly to China soon to represent India at the Australian Open Playoff. But my visa was rejected without a reason.*—PTI*

Ranji: K'taka climbs to top despite settling for a draw

Mayank, who batted brilliantly, scored 103 runs off 249 balls

PUNE, 11 NOV

The 2025-26 Ranji Trophy Elite B match between Karnataka and Maharashtra ended in a draw on Tuesday. However, the Mayank Agarwal-led Karnataka team, as a result of a narrow first innings lead, secured three points and topped the points table. On the other hand, the opponent Maharashtra team, which suffered a setback, secured just one point and slipped to second place in the points table with a total of 13 points.

On the fourth day of the match held at the Golf Club Ground here, Karnataka captain Mayank Agarwal (103 runs) and Abhinav Manohar (96 runs) attracted attention with their batting on Tuesday. With this, the Karnataka team scored 309 runs for the loss of 8 wickets in 110 overs in the second innings. At this time, the match was drawn by consensus of both the captains.

Mayank Agarwal, who had scored an unbeaten 64 at the end of the third day's play, completed his century in the first session of the fourth day's play. Mayank Agarwal, who batted brilliantly, scored 103 runs off 249 balls with a six and 8 fours before being bowled by Siddhesh Veer and shared a crucial 92-run partnership with Abhinav Manohar, thereby lifting Karnataka, who were falling to a small total. On the other hand, Abhinav Manohar, who batted beautifully, punished the Maharashtra bowlers for a while. He scored 96 runs in 161 balls with two sixes and 11 fours. He was close to scoring a century. However, he lost his wicket to Vicky Otstahl. He missed his century by just 4 runs.

Karnataka captain Mayank Agarwal **PHOTO: PTI**

Madhya Pradesh beat Goa by three wickets

Middle-order batter Saransh Jain held firm with a solid 82 not out to help Madhya Pradesh beat Goa by three wickets after a tense run chase on the final day of their Ranji Trophy Group B match here on Tuesday.Madhya Pradesh, who had conceded a 97-run first innings lead to Goa, started the final day at 21 for 1 in pursuit of 328, and wickets fell at regular intervals. Arriving at 176 for 4, Jain anchored the MP run chase with some support from the lower order. His unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 65 with Arshad Khan (25) turned it around for MP.Jain hit nine fours in his 132-ball unbeaten innings. *—PTI*

A NEW LOW

Delhi loses to J&K in Ranji for first time in 65 years

NEW DELHI, 11 NOV

Jammu and Kashmir scripted a golden chapter in its cricketing history on Tuesday, defeating Delhi by seven wickets at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, their first-ever Ranji Trophy victory against Delhi in 65 years of the competition.

After four games, Delhi, coached by Sarandeep Singh, is sixth among eight teams in group D with seven points, and it will take a miracle to qualify for the knockouts with only four points from three home games.

Questionable selections, poor strategies, absence of street-smart captaincy, and a state unit where teams have suffered due to factionalism and infighting have brought about the team's downfall.

Since 1960, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir have met 43 times, and 37 of those games ended in outright wins for the seven-time champions. Chasing a target of 179 for victory, J&K needed 124 runs on the final day with opener Iqbal (133 not out off 147 balls) at the crease with nightwatchman Vanshaj Sharma (8 off 55 balls).

What looked like a difficult pitch suddenly didn't create any problems as Iqbal took it upon himself to use his long levers and big stride to negate any turn off the surface. The roughs and indents were created on both sides of the track, and Delhi's spinners Mannan Bhardwaj and Hrithik Shokeen didn't attack the stumps as much, trying to bowl too fast, which also didn't get them any purchase. *—PTI*

Jammu and Kashmir is celebrating a win over Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

INSPECTING THE PITCH

India's captain Shubman Gill and head coach Gautam Gambhir during a training session on Tuesday ahead of the first Test match against South Africa **PHOTO: PTI**

Hussain advances to pre-quarterfinals

DOHA, 11 NOV

Unheralded Indian cueist Hussain Khan scored a thrilling 4-3 win over Australia's Hassan Kerde to enter the men's pre-quarterfinals of the IBSF World Snooker Championships here on Tuesday. The 29-year-old Indian, who came through the first stage qualification, played the important points well to win his match and set up a last-16 meeting with teen sensation Michal Szubarczyk of Poland. Earlier, India's celebrated three-time champion Pankaj Advani bowed out of the tournament after losing 1-4 to Deng Haohui. *—PTI*

Chess World Cup: All draws keep five Indians in hunt

PANJIM, 11 NOV

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi remained in the hunt for a place in the finals as all the Indians drew their first game of the fourth round of the Chess World Cup here on Tuesday.

Erigaisi did not have to face too many problems against Peter Leko, who was happy with a draw with white pieces. The Indian is expected to come out all guns blazing in the return game.

Praggnanandhaa was worse when Daniil Dubov decided it was not much to look forward to. It was clear that Dubov was hoping to take his chances.

As things turned out, Grandmaster P Harikrishna also did not mind the draw against Nils Grandelius of Sweden. Nils is someone known to be chasing the higher prize fund, but for Harikrishna, it does not matter much. *—PTI*

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi remained in the hunt for a place in the finals **PHOTO: PTI**

Aishwary wins silver in ISSF World C'ships

CAIRO, 11 NOV

Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar clinched the silver medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions after equalling the world record in the event's qualification at the ISSF World Championship here on Tuesday.

Aishwary shot 466.9 to finish second in the competition behind China's Yukun Liu (467.1) and ahead of France's Romain Aufrere (454.8).Niraj Kumar, the other Indian in the final, shot 432.6 to end in fifth place.Earlier in the day, the 24-year-old Aishwary equalled the world record to qualify for the final of the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event in the prestigious tournament.Aishwary shot 597-40x in qualification to match the world record mark, while compatriot Niraj also advanced to the final with a score of 592. *—PTI*

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar **PHOTO: PTI**

Prasad to contest for KSCA president's post

BENGALURU, 11 NOV

Former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad will contest for the president's post in the upcoming elections at the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), and his panel received strong backing from stalwarts Anil Kumble and Javagal Srinath.

The KSCA election is scheduled for 30 November, and the candidates can file their respective nominations from Wednesday until 16 November.

The Raghuram Bhatt-led dispensation's tenure ended on 30 September.

"I will be contesting for the post of president. We need to get cricket back to Chinnaswamy Stadium, and for that we need an administration free of back-seat driving," said Prasad in a press meet to announce his candidature. Other prominent names to contest from his panel are: former India batter Sujith Somasundar (vice-president), seasoned administrator Vinay Mruthynjaya (secretary), AV Shashidhar (joint secretary), Madhukar (treasurer), and former Karnataka cricketer Avinash Vaidya (institutional member from Bengaluru Zone). Somasundar has stepped down from the post of the education head at the BCCI Centr e of Excellence to contest in the state association elections. *—PTI*

PROBABLY WILL CRY

Ronaldo says 2026 World Cup 'definitely' his last

RIYADH, 11 NOV

Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo on Tuesday said next year's World Cup would be his last as he winds down one of the all-time great careers "It will be difficult? Yes.

Probably will cry, yes. I'm an open person. It will be very, very difficult, yes," he said.

The 40-year-old forward, with more than 950 club and international goals, also said he would retire from football in "one or two years".

"Definitely, yes," he told a Saudi forum by video link, when asked if 2026 would be his World Cup swansong. "I'm gonna be 41 years old and I think it will be the moment."

Ronaldo, who began a lucrative stint at Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr in 2023, also elaborated on comments last week when he said he would retire "soon".

"Let's be honest, when I mean soon, it's probably one or two years, I'll still be at the game," he said.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner is targeting a sixth World Cup next year. He came closest to lifting the trophy in 2006, when Portugal lost to France in the semi-finals.

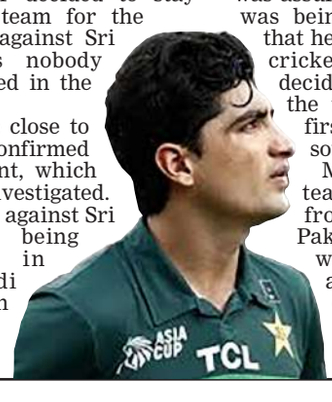
Portugal has yet to qualify for the 2026 tournament in the USA, Canada, and Mexico, but it can secure its spot if it beats Ireland on Thursday. Ronaldo joined Al Nassr after leaving Manchester United for a second time in late 2022, a move that heralded an influx of late-career stars to the oil-rich kingdom. Saudi Arabia, which is spending big on sports and entertainment as part of its economic diversification plan, was named as host of the 2034 World Cup last December. With on-and off-field earnings of an estimated $280 million, Ronaldo will earn more than double that of second-placed rival Lionel Messi during the upcoming season, according to Forbes. *—PTI*

Firing outside Naseem Shah's ancestral home

LAHORE, 11 NOV

Unknown assailants fired at the gate of Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah's ancestral home in Lower Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Still, the bowler decided to stay with the team for the first ODI against Sri Lanka as nobody was harmed in the incident.

A source close to Naseem confirmed the incident, which is being investigated. The match against Sri Lanka is being held in Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

"Naseem and most of his family members now reside in Islamabad, but he has close relatives in Lower Dir who stay at the ancestral home," the source said. He said that Naseem, after speaking to his family, was assured that the incident was being looked into and that he should focus on his cricket. "Naseem then decided to remain with the team that plays its first match today," the source said.

Many of the national team players come from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where in the Northern areas, security forces are fighting terror attacks frequently. *—PTI*